

FOURTH REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS

OF

Irish Education Inquiry.

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Dated *Dublin*, 27th January 1827.

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FOURTH REPORT
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THE COMMISSIONERS
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IRISH EDUCATION INQUIRY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY:

WE, the undersigned Commissioners, nominated and appointed by a Commission under the Great Seal, bearing date the Fourteenth day of June, One thousand eight hundred and twenty-four, humbly beg leave farther to report, as follows:—

Belfast Academical Institution.

THE Plan and Objects of this Institution cannot be more clearly set forth than in the words of a Circular Address, issued by a Committee of Subscribers in December 1808, entitled—

“ A STATEMENT of the Origin and Proceedings of the BELFAST
ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION since its commencement.

“ The formation of literary Institutions in various parts of the United Kingdom having been found highly conducive to the dissemination of useful knowledge, a desire has been for some time very generally expressed, that this part of the kingdom should partake of these advantages by means of an Institution founded on similar principles. The want of such a Seminary has long been felt in the north of Ireland, and is still demonstrated by the annual resort of Irish Students to the Scotch Colleges. Notwithstanding the expenses attending such a journey, they have been found much less than those attending one to the capital of this part of the kingdom. The children of the wealthier classes alone in Ulster have been able to avail themselves of the advantage of a liberal education in the Dublin University, while no mode whatsoever has been provided for disseminating that species of knowledge so necessary to the lower classes, who are engaged in manufactures, mechanics, or agriculture. While the province was thus unprovided with the means of attaining the higher branches of science, the increasing population of the country made the want of primary Schools be as severely felt.

“ It was therefore thought by the friends of literature, that an Establishment, comprising both, would be highly useful, as well to the immediate neighbourhood of Belfast, as to the Province at large. By this combination the progress of science would be extended among the higher ranks, and a number of teachers would also be brought forward at a cheap rate, who would diffuse knowledge among the lower classes.

" In pursuance of these intentions, an application was made by a number of the most respectable inhabitants of Belfast, and its vicinity, to the Marquess of Donegall for his approbation, and a grant in perpetuity of a suitable lot of ground for the necessary buildings. This application was immediately acceded to in the fullest manner, and a lot of more than four acres, in a central and advantageous situation, was assigned by his Lordship to trustees for the uses of the Institution.

" In consequence, a meeting of its friends was held on the 1st of August 1807, at which a Committee was appointed to draw up a Plan for the future regulation of all its departments. This Plan was laid before a second meeting held on the 22d of September following, and after some discussion adopted and published.

" In this Plan, it is proposed to form two Schools, one for the Education of Children intended for the learned Professions; the other for those whose future pursuits do not necessarily require a knowledge of the learned languages; also, to found Lectureships, to which young men might be admitted, after having finished the common course of school learning, either in the Seminaries of the Institution, or elsewhere, and in which they might proceed through a regular series of studies, at the termination of which, they might be furnished with a stock of knowledge equal to what is generally deemed necessary for engaging in any of the professions to which they may have been destined. In addition to those lectures that require a previous regular course of studies, it is proposed to have others of a general and popular kind, in the sciences more intimately connected with agriculture, manufactures, and the arts, from which persons wishing to gain information on any of these subjects may derive instruction, though they had not received the rudiments of a liberal education.

" Although the prospectus takes no notice of the religious part of education, it is the intention of the Institution to admit professors of Divinity, and to afford them suitable accommodations, on an application from any Ecclesiastical Body.

" With respect to the internal economy of the Society, the amount of the subscription requisite to entitle a subscriber to interfere in the management, or to hold any of the places of trust, was finally fixed, so as to preclude the possibility of the management falling into the hands of a few individuals; and to guard more effectually against this evil, the privileges of subscribers were made hereditary.

" The government of the Institution is entrusted to a President, four Vice Presidents, twenty Managers, and eight Visitors, the whole chosen by the proprietors at large; one-fourth of the Vice Presidents, Managers and Visitors, vacating their seats annually. The President and Managers, with the assistance of the Visitors, appoint Masters and Professors, and regulate the whole of the internal economy of the Institution.

" At this meeting, the Marquess of Donegall was chosen President for life, and a Committee appointed for collecting subscriptions. The universal wish for the establishment of such a Seminary now became manifest; upwards of £. 10,000 was subscribed in fourteen days, principally in the town and its immediate vicinity. The subscribers, though not including every individual whose circumstances authorized them to devote part of their property to useful public purposes, yet comprised a great majority, and was supported with equal liberality by persons of every rank and description.

" The Committee at the same time employed themselves in circulating prospectuses, and in endeavouring to procure the patronage of persons of rank and influence through the country. The result has been almost universally favourable.

" The subscriptions having now amounted to upwards of £. 14,000, a sum deemed sufficient to commence the execution of the design, a General Meeting of the Subscribers was held on the 4th of February 1808, for the election of the officers in whom the direction of its affairs was to be invested. As, since the publication of the prospectus, several persons of high rank and literary talents had subscribed, it was then resolved, that the Archbishop of Armagh,

" and

" and the Bishops of Dromore and Down, should be elected Honorary Visitors,
 " admissible to all the privileges vested in that Board by the rules of the
 " Institution."

The Institution may be considered as having been established from the date of the above-mentioned meeting, 4th February 1808, as the subscribers then invested the officers elected with full power to act as they thought most advantageous. A copy of the proceedings was forwarded to the Irish Government, and to several members of the Legislature, who were locally connected with Ireland, and more particularly with the province of Ulster; and a letter was written by the Vice President to Sir Arthur Wellesley, then Secretary for Ireland, expressing the intention of the Managers to present a petition to the House of Commons, during the next session of Parliament, for a charter of incorporation, and a grant of money in aid of their funds; and calling the attention of Government to the very liberal private contributions, and to the sentiments of many persons of rank and fortune, fully and unequivocally expressed in favour of the Establishment.

The further progress of the Institution was delayed until suitable buildings could be erected, and the Managers and Visitors in the mean time were employed in digesting the arrangements for commencing the course of Education.

In the year 1810, an Act of Parliament was passed for the incorporation and regulation of the Institution, the objects of which were declared to be, to afford to youth a classical and mercantile education, and to teach mathematics, natural philosophy, logic, metaphysics, belles lettres, moral philosophy, chemistry, botany, agriculture, and other branches of science.

Vide Act, sect. 1.

By the provisions of this Act, his Grace the Lord Primate, the Marquess of Donegall, the Marquess of Downshire, the Bishop of Down and Connor, the Bishop of Dromore, and upwards of 70 of the principal subscribers by name, together with all such other persons as had subscribed, and all who should at any time thereafter subscribe 20 guineas for the purposes of the Institution, were made a corporation, capable to take land, not exceeding £.2,500 per annum, with the usual powers to sue in their corporate name, to use a common seal, and receive subscriptions and donations.

By the same Act, the proprietors for the time being, or any 21 of them, were enabled to make bye-laws for the government of the Institution, subject to the approbation of the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council of Ireland, and for the election of a President, Vice President, Managers, Visitors, Treasurer, Secretary and Auditors. The Act of Parliament nominated the persons who should first hold those respective offices; and it was declared that they and all subsequent officers should continue for such time as might be fixed at the first meeting of the Proprietors; or in case of death, or removal by absence, or impropriety of conduct, that they should be supplied according to the provisions of the Act.

The Statute further provides, that the acts of the Proprietors, duly assembled, or the major part of them, shall be deemed the acts of the Corporation, provided 21 or more be present, and that the election of the officers shall be made in the manner appointed by the Proprietors, and that the officers so to be elected shall not exceed the following numbers, viz. four Vice Presidents, twenty Managers, eight Visitors, and three Auditors, who shall exercise such powers as shall be given them by the bye-laws, and no other.

The officers are to be elected from and by the corporate body only; subscribers of fifty guineas and upwards, to be eligible to the offices of President and Vice President, and of twenty guineas and upwards to the office of Manager.

The Act further provides, that in addition to the aforesaid eight elective Visitors, the Primate of all Ireland for the time being, the Marquess of Donegall, and the Marquesses of Donegall in succession, the Bishop of Dromore and his successors, the Bishop of Down and Connor and his successors, the Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Synod of Ulster, the Representatives in Parliament of the Town of Belfast, and of the Counties of Down and Antrim, and the Sovereign of the said Town of Belfast, all for the time being, shall be Visitors of the Institution, with the same powers, authority and jurisdiction, that should hereafter be given to the eight Visitors to be elected as aforesaid.

By the 11th and 12th sections of the Act, every member of the corporate body, subscribing 100 guineas or upwards, has the privilege of appointing one boy to be educated as a day scholar, or extra student, in the Institution, free of all expense, and every member has the power, during his life, of transferring to any person, (subject to the approbation of the managers,) all the rights and privileges which he may hold and enjoy as a member thereof.

At a general meeting of the Proprietors, held on the 4th September 1810, certain bye-laws were made, which were afterwards ratified by the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council.

These bye-laws will be found in the Appendix to this Report. They relate chiefly to the duties of the respective officers, the mode of their elections, and duration in office. The Managers are directed to meet every month, to superintend the economy of the Institution. The Visitors assist and vote with the Managers in the appointment of Masters and Professors. They also are directed to meet at least once a month, and to report annually, either to the Board of Managers, or to a General Court of Proprietors, as they think best; which Court any three Visitors may convene, on giving eight days notice to the Managers. The Board of Managers and Board of Visitors, when summoned for that especial purpose, form a joint Board, with authority to make Rules for the Establishment and Regulation of the College and Schools, in the manner in the bye-law particularly specified.

For the establishment of this Institution upwards of £16,000 was subscribed by the resident inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood of Belfast, liberally aided by the nobility, gentry, and dignified clergy of the province, before the Act of Incorporation was obtained. Subscriptions were also received from other parts of Ireland and from England. Nearly £5,000 was obtained from India, under the patronage of the Marquess of Hastings, and other sums have been since received, amounting together with the former, to upwards of £25,000. A Parliamentary grant of £1,500 was made to the Institution in the years 1814, 1815, and 1816, and was then discontinued. These sums were added to the general account, and the whole has been expended in the buildings, purchase of furniture for the dormitories and school rooms, books, apparatus, and in salaries to the Professors. On the 10th of October, 1825, when we visited it, the Institution was indebted to the Treasurer nearly £300, without possessing any funds from which that sum could be repaid, except £50 deposited in a savings bank, and £200 stock in the new 4 per cents, the interest of which is subject to the payment of a gold medal annually, of about five pounds value.

The Establishment is possessed of an annual income of 43*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* arising from the rent of houses bequeathed to them during a lease for a term of years, of which about 40 are unexpired. It should also be stated, that the proprietors of the White Linen Hall, in Belfast, have agreed to give to the Institution £100 per annum, on condition that a course of popular lectures should be delivered every Summer in the Institution, for the use of the artisans and mechanics of the town and neighbourhood of Belfast. Owing to the depressed state of the funds of the Establishment, several of the Professors have temporarily relinquished the emoluments of their offices, and the Assistant Secretary has given up half of his annual salary.

The Establishment was opened in February 1814, and, on that occasion, an Address of the joint Boards of Managers and Visitors was read to the Proprietors, explaining "the objects and design of those who first conceived this plan of "popular Education." The object of the Academical Institution, to use the words of the Address, was shortly and simply this: "To diffuse as widely as "possible throughout the province and population of Ulster, the benefits of "Education, both useful and liberal; and by that means, to prevent the hard and "disgraceful necessity, in such a great and prosperous community, of sending "their children to seek in other countries, with much risk to their health and "morals, for that instruction, and those literary qualifications and honours, "which might be equally well attained at home, with evident advantage to the "public interest as well as to that of individuals."

The Directors also, amongst other things, expressed a wish for the countenance of Government, and for Parliamentary encouragement, and stated, that they wished

wished to supply to the youth of Ireland "the advantages of a complete course of Education, and they doubted not, that the liberality of many public bodies, as well as individuals, would supply a fund for the endowment of different Professors, until the justice of Parliament should extend the same encouragement to literature in the north, as it had already done in the south of Ireland." They further stated, that the primary object of the Institution was to make learning popular, "and to diffuse useful knowledge, particularly among the modelling orders of society." And they stated their intention, "that the rates of tuition and boarding should be as low as possible, and that students should be admitted gratuitously on the recommendation of liberal subscribers." The Address then proceeds thus: "The Directors in their choice of Masters, and in their admission of Scholars are perfectly unbiassed by religious distinctions. They have sought for teachers, either in this or the other kingdom, wherever best recommended by their merits and experience in their professional departments, and by their morals and manners in their personal characters. Of nothing are the Boards more desirous, than that pupils of all religious denominations should communicate by frequent and friendly intercourse in the common business of Education, by which means a new turn might be given to the national character and habits, and all the children of Ireland should know and love each other."

At the period of delivering the above Address, a Lecturer on Natural Philosophy and Chemistry was engaged, and was to commence a course of lectures in the month of May following; and five schools were then open for teaching Classics, English, Mathematics, Writing, and French. Other Professorships have been added from time to time, and additional schools opened.

The Institution is at present divided into two branches, the Collegiate and the School Departments. The Collegiate Department is under the direction of the following Professors, who are appointed by the joint Boards of Managers and Visitors:—

James Thomson, A. M. Mathematics.
 Rev. W^m Cairns, A. M. Logic and Belle Lettres.
 John Young, LL. D. Moral Philosophy.
 Rev. W^m Bruce, A. B. Latin and Greek.
 Rev. Tho^s Dix Hincks, Hebrew.
 James L. Drummond, M. D. Anatomy and Physiology.
 John Stereely, A. B. Natural Philosophy.

In addition to these, there are two Professors of Divinity and Church History, viz.: The Rev. Samuel Hanna, D. D., appointed by the General Synod of Ulster, and the Rev. Samuel Edgew, D. D., appointed by the Presbyterian Synod of Ireland, distinguished by the name of Seceders.

The Professors appointed by the Institution, and the two Professors of Divinity, form a Board of Faculty, to superintend the literary concerns of the Collegiate department, and each Professor is, in his turn, President for one year.

Appendix,
 N^o 35.

This Board is empowered to take cognisance of every thing connected with the literary pursuits and moral discipline of the Collegiate department of the Institution, to regulate the course of studies to be pursued, and to direct the formation of new classes when necessary, with the concurrence of the joint Boards of Managers and Visitors; to appoint the hours for the meeting of the several classes, and the time and order of public examinations; and finally to adjudge premiums, sign the testimonials given to students at the close of the Collegiate course, in the presence of the Managers and Visitors, specially summoned for that purpose; and to enforce discipline, by such fines and punishments as they may deem proper.

The Board meets in the Institution once a week during the College session, and as often during vacation as may be necessary.

The Masters in the School department form a similar Board, called the Board of Masters, with power to make and enforce such regulations as they may deem necessary for maintaining order, discipline, and propriety of conduct among the pupils in the schools; to fix the time and order of their public examinations; and,

N^o 36.

in general, to take such measures respecting internal management and regulation as they may deem proper.

In case any difference of opinion should arise, either in the Board of Faculty or Board of Masters, reference is to be made to the joint Boards of Managers and Visitors, specially summoned for that purpose.

The Professors and Masters hold their situations under the following Resolution, adopted by the joint Boards of Managers and Visitors on the 20th of January 1813, and confirmed by a General Court of Proprietors on the 22d of the same month:—

“Resolved unanimously, That every Professor or Teacher in this Institution, who has been or may be elected to fill those offices, be deemed permanently appointed to his situation, unless he shall forfeit his claim to public confidence by misconduct, neglect of duty, or incapacity; and that his dismissal shall take place only after the charges of misconduct, neglect of duty, or incapacity shall have been fully proved, to the satisfaction of the Board of Managers, assembled for that purpose, agreeably to the tenth section of the bye-laws; and farther, that the investigation shall take place in the presence of the person accused, provided he requires it.”

We will now shortly advert to the general character of the Lectures, as delivered by each of the Professors at present in the Collegiate department, referring to their several examinations for a more detailed statement.

Appendix,
N° 2.

Mr. James Thomson was appointed Professor of Mathematics in 1815. At his appointment, Mr. Thomson received £.50 a year salary as Professor, but in consequence of the low state of the funds of the Institution, he has for the present voluntarily relinquished it, and for the last two years has only received the fees of the students, which in this, as in all other cases in the Institution, are regulated by the Managers and Visitors.

In this class, the fees are two guineas from each student for the winter session, which commences in November and ends in the May following; and if the student attends a second session he only pays half that sum. The number of students attending in the session 1824-5 was sixty-one, and the utmost sum received from students by Mr. Thomson, in any one year, was fifty-three guineas. The students are divided into two classes. The course for the junior class commences with arithmetic, then proceeds with algebra and geometry, the senior class with the arithmetic of sines, spherical trigonometry, conic sections, analytic geometry, and the differential and integral calculus. A considerable portion of the students in the mathematical class are preparing for the Presbyterian ministry; but there are several schoolmasters and others who study for general improvement. Several students attend this course free of expense, under the provision of the 11th section of the Act of Incorporation, before-mentioned.

Appendix,
N° 6.

The Rev. William Cairns, A.M. was appointed Professor of Logic and Belles Lettres, in September 1815. The lectures delivered by him embrace a full account of the elements of modern intellectual Philosophy.

Mr. Cairns receives a salary of £.150, besides the class fees, which have varied from £.70 to £.100. The number of students attending during the session 1824-5 was 42.

In addition to the regular College class, Mr. Cairns has read several courses of lectures of a more popular character, which were attended by the inhabitants of Belfast, as well as by the students of the Institution.

Appendix,
N° 14.

Dr. John Young (LL. D.) Professor of Metaphysics and Moral Philosophy was appointed in September 1815. His course of lectures is occupied in explaining intellectual philosophy, and the general phenomena of the human mind, adverting to the various theories, ancient and modern, which have been advanced upon that subject.

The salary is £.150 per annum, and the fee paid by each public student is two guineas, and by each private student one guinea for the session. The number attending this class in the session ended May 1825, was 38.

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The Rev. William Bruce, A. B. was appointed Professor of the Greek and Latin languages in October 1821. He receives a salary of £. 50 yearly, and the fees of the students. The fee for the Greek class alone is two guineas for the session; for Greek and Latin jointly, three guineas. The average annual amount of fees received during four years has been about £. 70. The number of students attending in the session ended May 1825 was, Latin, 15; Greek, 32. Mr. Bruce is a member of the Presbytery of Antrim, and minister of one of the congregations in Belfast. All students intended for the Presbyterian ministry, are obliged to attend the lectures of this Professor.

Appendix,
N° 9.

The Rev. Thomas Dix Hincks, Professor of Hebrew, was appointed to the situation in June 1822. There is no salary attached to this professorship, as Mr. Hincks holds also the situation of head master of the classical school, from which he derives considerable emolument. On the death of the late Professor, Mr. Bruce was appointed to the Professorship of Hebrew, as well as to that of Greek and Latin, but he subsequently resigned the former to Mr. Hincks, who was peculiarly qualified for that situation, and who, by the appointment, acquired a seat in the Board of Faculty. Mr. Hincks receives two guineas per session from each student; the amount received does not exceed 40 guineas. The number attending the session of 1824-5, was 45, and 48 were entered for the course 1825-6. The divinity students are obliged by order of the Synods to attend the Hebrew lecture. Several of the pupils of Mr. Hincks have obtained the first premium in Trinity College, Dublin, for proficiency in the knowledge of the Hebrew language.

Appendix,
N° 10.

Dr. James Lawson Drummond, M. D. was appointed Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in December 1818. The salary was £. 50 a year, but for the last two years, owing to the reduced state of the funds, Dr. Drummond has declined receiving it. The admission fee is one guinea. The number of students attending the session 1824-5, was 11, and 15 in the session ended May 1826. The course of lectures is not confined to the course of anatomy taught in medical schools, but embraces a wide field of natural history and of natural theology.

Appendix,
N° 11.

Mr. John Stevelly, A. B. of Trinity College, Dublin, was appointed Professor of Natural Philosophy in August 1823. The annual salary paid by the Institution is £. 150. The fees are two guineas per session. This Professor is also engaged to give a popular course of lectures in the Summer in Chemistry and Mechanics. The fee for the chemical class is seven shillings and sixpence, and five shillings for the lectures on Mechanics. This latter course was established by the Linen Hall Company. A society called the Mechanics Institute, in Belfast, gave the sum of sixty-five pounds for permission for the members of their body to attend this lecture, and the Professor received about the same sum for tickets. About 400 mechanics attended the introductory lectures for the first fortnight, but they gradually fell off, and the Mechanics Institute itself is very much diminished.

Appendix,
N° 12.

The want of a Laboratory and sufficient apparatus for lecturing, both in natural philosophy and chemistry, is a great impediment to the advancement of these sciences, and the course of anatomical lectures suffers equally, from the want of preparations and drawings. The funds of the Institution have not been hitherto sufficient to supply the several requisites that are indispensable for these objects.

The seven Professors above mentioned were appointed by the Institution. Several of them were natives of Scotland, or of distant parts of Ireland; and when they offered themselves as candidates, personally unknown to the Managers and Visitors, and were chosen solely on account of the satisfactory testimonials they produced.

The Professors of Divinity and Church History for the Synods of Ulster and the Seceding Synod are, as before stated, respectively appointed by those bodies.

The Presbyterians in Ireland may be considered as consisting of four principal bodies.—1st. The Synod of Ulster, comprising 15 Presbyteries, and about 202 ministers.—2d. The Seceding Synod, which separated from the Synod of Ulster in the year 1726, on a difference as to points of discipline. It comprises 10 Presbyteries and 108 ministers.—3d. The Presbytery of Antrim, which originally was comprised in the Synod of Ulster, but was separated from it in 1726, on account of Arian opinions, which they were supposed to entertain. It comprehend 10 ministers.—4th. The Presbytery, or (as it has lately been called) the Synod of Munster, comprising 9 or 10 ministers.

There is also in the north of Ireland a small body of Presbyterians, called the Reformed Presbytery, usually known by the name of Covenanters or Cameronians. It comprises about 20 congregations; of which, however, only about half are at present supplied with ministers.

We have already seen, that in the Circular Address issued by the Committee of Management in 1808, it was declared to be the intention of the Institution to admit Professors of Divinity, and to afford them suitable accommodations, on an application from any ecclesiastical body.

It will also be observed, that in the Act of Incorporation, the Moderator of the Synod of Ulster (an annual officer who presides over that body) was appointed one of the official Visitors, and in that character he is invested with the right of voting on all elections of Professors.

With a view to connect the Institution still more closely with the Presbyterian body, a negotiation was for some time carried on between them; and it was resolved in August 1813, at a joint meeting of the Managers and Visitors, "that the General Synod of Ulster could promote the interest of the Belfast Academical Institution, by paying the same respect to its certificates of the attendance and progress of the students in learning, as to the certificates from foreign universities, and by founding a Professorship of Divinity and Hebrew, for which purpose the Institution would afford suitable accommodation within its walls."

A few days after the passing of the above resolution, a deputation from the Synod met the joint Boards, and stated, "that they were disposed to recommend to the Synod that the certificates alluded to should be sustained by them, as soon as adequate Professors should be appointed to lecture on the different branches of science, which the Synod pointed out to students under their care."

A grant of £1,500 having been made by Parliament to the Institution in 1814, the Synod of Ulster in 1815, unanimously agreed to establish a Professorship of Divinity and Church History; and it is stated, that the connexion between the Synod and the Institution was not completed until there was a Parliamentary grant; because that circumstance afforded a pledge to the Synod, that the Institution would obtain the countenance of Government.

Appendix,
N° 7, 8.

Dr. Hanna was appointed Professor by the Synod of Ulster in 1817; he lectures in the Institution, by the direction of the Synod. He receives no salary from the Institution. The Synod attempted to raise a fund for the endowment of the Professorship, but not finding this plan succeed, it was ordered, that each student should pay a fee of two guineas for the session, and the Treasurer of the Synod is directed to supply the sum required to make up the salary £100 per annum.

Appendix,
N° 7, 8.

The course of Divinity Lectures occupies two years, and is minutely described by Dr. Hanna in his Evidence, to which we beg to refer. The number of students who attended Dr. Hanna's lecture in the session 1824-5 was 23, and in the session 1825-6 the number in attendance was 25.

A similar application was made by the Managers to the Seceding Synod in 1814, and that Synod resolved to recommend to their students to attend the Belfast Academical Institution, and engaged to pay every respect to the certificates which young men might obtain for their progress and proficiency in literature.

Appendix,
N° 15.

Dr. Edgar was thereupon appointed Professor of Divinity by the Seceding Synod in 1815. He receives £50 yearly, which sum is directed by the Synod to be paid by the students; the annual fee paid by each being more or less in proportion to the number attending each session. No addition is made by the Synod to the fees received from the students. The number attending Dr. Edgar's lectures in the session ended in May 1825 was 32, and 25 students were entered for the session 1825-6.*

The other Presbyterian bodies do not appoint any Professors, but the students intended for the ministries connected with them, resort for their instruction to either of the Professors appointed by the two Synods above mentioned.

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* Dr. Edgar has died since the period of our examination, and his son has been appointed to succeed him.

We have already stated, that this Institution was founded expressly for the Education of all descriptions of students, without distinction of sect or profession, and that in the appointment to Professorships not theological, the selection was to be determined solely by the moral character and literary acquirements of the candidates, without reference to their peculiar religious opinions. The adherence to this principle in the election of Professors, necessarily brought together persons of different religious tenets, and the Board of Faculty thought it expedient that an explicit declaration should be made in their Minutes as to the line of conduct which the Professors had pursued, and were determined to pursue, with respect to the religious opinions of their pupils. On the 8th of February 1842, the following declaration was adopted and signed by the then existing members of the Board of Faculty, and it has also been subscribed by those Professors who have been appointed since that period.

" Although the Faculty have hitherto confined themselves to the strict and avowed duties of their respective situations, without interfering in the least degree with the peculiar religious opinions of any denomination of Christians, (excepting in so far as the Theological Professors may have found it to be their duty to do so in the professional instructions which they have given to the students of their own communions while attending their own classes), yet considering that the Professors are members of different religious communions, and that there are students of various denominations of Christians attending the College, they deem it an indispensable duty, which, as instructors of youth, they owe to the public, to pledge themselves, as they hereby do, that they will continue to exercise the same strict impartiality which they have hitherto observed, and never interfere, directly or indirectly, with the religious faith of any of their pupils of whatever denomination, and that in particular they will always treat with deference and respect the religious establishments of the empire."

The object of this declaration, and the feelings in which it originated, are stated in the Evidence of Professor Cairns, and will be found in the Appendix.

Appendix,
B^d 6.

This declaration was communicated in June in the same year to the Synod of Ulster, and the Seceding Synod, by a deputation from the Board; and in the interview which took place with the latter body, it was stated by Dr. Young and Mr. Cairns, as the understood import of the declaration, " that whilst in teaching the languages, science and literature, the Professors will carefully avoid all interference with the distinguishing peculiarities of the various denominations of Christians, yet in all their instructions, and in conducting the discipline of the College, they will invariably recognise the truth and authority of natural and revealed religion, and will inculcate the general principles of Christian piety and morality."

In addition to the nine Professors above described, there is a Lecturer on Elocution, the Rev. W. D. H. McEwen. He is not a member of the Board of Faculty, and has never received any salary from the Institution, with which in fact he appears to have no other connection than what arises from a permission to give lectures to the students within the College. His sole emolument is derived from the fees of the students who attend his class, which amount to about 60 guineas per annum. His class (including the sons of clergymen who are admitted free of expense) amounted in about 80 students in 1844-5.

The system which has been adopted, with regard to the Lecturer on Elocution, is in all respects similar to that pursued in the Scottish Universities. We think it desirable, however, that any person who has a permanent permission to give lectures in the College, should be subject to the same general regulations, and therefore sign the same declaration as the other Professors. We observe also, that Mr. McEwen has, by the proprietors, been appointed one of the Visitors of the Institution, a situation which we think incompatible with any office subject to the authority of a Visitor.

The yearly examination, which, according to the regulations of the College, takes place at the end of each session, appears to have produced considerable effect. These examinations are open to the public at large, and are attended by the parents and connections of the pupils, and by the Moderators of the Synod of Ulster, and of the Seceding Synod, together with a committee deputed for

that purpose by each of these bodies. The examination takes place in the common hall, and it relates to the business done during the session; and those who acquit themselves well receive a certificate. Prizes are also voted by the pupils of each class. The classes assemble the day previous to the examination, and the students themselves vote premiums to the most deserving among their number.

At the end of three years, if a student acquits himself respectably at the examination, he receives a general certificate, signed by the Professors. There are also three prizes given at the general certificate examination, for those who answer best;—one in classics; one in moral philosophy, logic, and belles lettres; and the third in mathematics and natural philosophy. These general certificates, when signed by the Moderators of the respective Synods, and when the students have also attended the Divinity Professors, are received on the examination of candidates for the Presbyterian Church, as of equal value with the degree of M.A. conferred by a Scottish University.

The benefit of a three years' course of lectures may thus be obtained for about 12 guineas, but a more extended course would cost about 18 guineas, or 6 guineas per annum.

The total number of the students who have entered the Collegiate department since November 1815 is 519. Of this number 118 have obtained the general certificates above referred to.

In order to show how far the Presbyterian Church in Ireland has been supplied with ministers from the Belfast Institution, we have obtained the following statements:—In the Synod of Ulster 23 ministers, wholly or in part educated in the Institution, have been ordained, who are now settled with congregations; of these, 19 are settled in Ulster, 2 in Munster, 1 in America, and 1 in England; and 26 other students have been licensed to preach, though they have not yet obtained congregations. These students were all under the care of Dr. Hanna.

In the Seceding Synod, under the care of Dr. Edgar, 21 ministers, educated wholly or in part in the Institution, have obtained congregations in Ireland, 9 have gone to America, and 21 have been licensed to preach.

Having thus stated the general course pursued in the Collegiate department, we proceed shortly to advert to that of the schools, with respect to which it is to be observed, that though an integral branch of the Institution, held within its walls, and subject to the general controul of the Board of Managers and Visitors, they have in fact no necessary connexion with the Collegiate department, and are under the immediate jurisdiction of the Board of Masters. They are not particularly connected with the education of the Presbyterian ministry, and very few of the persons who have been admitted into that body have passed through the schools; they have at all times been well attended, and have fully supported themselves, without any pecuniary aid from the general funds of the Institution; the use of the buildings, rent-free, being the only advantage which they derive from it. These consist of school-rooms (which, for want of spare, are also used as college lecture-rooms) and two dwelling-houses, for the accommodation of the head Masters of the English and classical schools, and their boarders.

The schools are under separate Masters, who are independent of each other. There is a public weekly meeting in the common hall, when various specimens of writing, maps, accounts and drawings are exhibited, and examined by those who attend; and select passages from authors in different languages, with original essays, are read and recited.

All the pupils undergo also a public annual examination previous to the Summer vacation, and those who have been most distinguished for diligence, proficiency, and propriety of conduct, in the different schools, receive medals given by the Managers, which are publicly distributed.

The religious Education of the boys in the schools is left to their parents, or to the clergyman of whose congregation they are members, with every disposition to facilitate the means of attendance at the time which may be appointed. The boarders are regularly conducted to their respective places of worship, and either attend catechetical lectures, or are taught such catechisms as their parents may desire.

desire. Under these regulations, the differences which exist in the religious persuasions of the children, who meet together in the schools of the Institution, are not found to lead to any inconvenience, all being educated together in perfect harmony.

The union of so many schools in the same building, under distinct teachers of co-ordinate authority, each responsible for his own department, and paid according to his exertions and his services, has been found highly advantageous. The pupils thus have access to a variety of classes, suited to their degrees of proficiency or capacity, and as each school is conducted in a separate place, under a master devoting himself exclusively to a particular kind of study, a greater security is afforded, that no one part of Education shall be sacrificed to another, and the pupil, while he is instructed in languages or in composition, may also with equal advantage attend to the mathematical or mercantile part of his education.

We shall now briefly describe the several Schools in their order :—

English School.

THE Reverend Henry Montgomery, A. M. was appointed head master in 1817. In this school the pupils are instructed in spelling, reading, grammar, parsing, exercises in composition, recitation, history, chronology, and any other subjects calculated to produce a knowledge and proper application of the English language.

Appendix,
N^o 4.

Mr. Montgomery is a member of the Synod of Ulster; he has a congregation in the neighbourhood of Belfast. On entering upon the duties of his office, he found in the school six boarders and sixty-six day pupils. For the last four years the number has fluctuated from 35 to 45 boarders, and from 150 to 200 day scholars. Of the day pupils several have received gratuitous instruction on the nomination of subscribers of one hundred guineas, agreeably to the provision in the Act of Incorporation; and besides these, the sons of professors and masters, and likewise several others, under peculiar circumstances, have by the liberality of the master been educated free of expense. The number of pupils (including boarders and free scholars) in September 1824, was 186, of whom 5 were free, being on the foundation, and 11 from other causes. Of these 186, 52 were of the Established Church, 117 Presbyterians, 4 Protestants of other denominations, and 13 Roman Catholics. There are seldom more than from 70 to 110 pupils in the school at any one time, the others being divided amongst the different masters, and only coming to the English school at regular intervals. The head master teaches occasionally every class in the school, and also regularly instructs the senior classes in the ordinary routine. He has four assistants, of whom three are resident, and have the superintendence and instruction of the boarders before and after the usual hours of teaching.

The boarders read the New Testament, without note or comment, in the evening school. The senior pupils have the benefit of the Institution library.

In the English department, the terms are two guineas per annum for day scholars, and thirty guineas for boarders.

Classical School.

THE Reverend Thomas Dix Hincks was, in the year 1821, chosen to preside over the classical school. Mr. Hincks was educated in the University of Dublin, and had been engaged for many years in preparing students for their entrance into College; he is also, as before stated, the Professor of Hebrew in the Collegiate department. Mr. Hincks resided in Cork for 25 years, and during that period was minister of a Presbyterian congregation in that city. He is a member of the Presbytery of Antrim, but has no charge of a congregation.

Appendix,
N^o 10.

The object of this school is the preparation of boys in Latin and Greek, either for entering at the Universities, or for becoming members of those professions which require a competent knowledge of these languages. As the Provost and Senior Fellows of Trinity College, Dublin, have appointed a number of books, in

which all students who enter are previously examined, those books are always read by such of the scholars as are sufficiently advanced, whilst the elementary books and others read in addition to the above, are selected by the head-master for the time being.

The number of pupils in September, 1824, was 118, 9 of whom were free on nominations, and 6 from other causes. Of these, 43 were members of the Established Church, 64 Presbyterians, 4 Protestants of other denominations, and 7 Roman Catholics. The head master has three and occasionally four assistants, who are appointed by the joint Boards of Managers and Visitors.

The number of boarders in this school has varied from 25 to 33, which latter is the highest number since Mr. Hincks became master. A great proportion of these are from the south of Ireland.

Mathematical and Mercantile School.

THIS School, in which pupils are instructed in arithmetic, geography, and mathematics, was opened in February 1814, under the care of Mr. James Thomson, A.M. of the University of Glasgow, the present master, and who is also, as before stated, Professor of Mathematics in the Collegiate department.

Appendix,
N^o 3.

The pupils have access to a library belonging to the mathematical classes of the Institution, containing many of the most valuable English and foreign books on mathematical subjects.

There were 145 pupils in attendance in the different branches of science taught at this school, in September 1824. Two assistants are constantly employed, and sometimes three.

The terms per quarter are, for arithmetic and geography, each half a guinea, and for mathematics one guinea.

The Writing School.

THIS School was opened in February 1814, under the present master, Mr. Thomas Spence.

Appendix,
N^o 5.

The master and an assistant attend daily from 10 in the morning till 3 in the afternoon, except on Saturdays, when the school closes at noon. The whole hours of attendance are divided into four equal portions, in each of which, as nearly as the business of the other schools will permit, one-fourth of the writing pupils attend.

The terms are half a guinea per quarter. The number of pupils attending in September 1824 was 160, of whom 4 were free on the foundation, and 6 free from other causes.

The French School.

THE present master, Mr. Adelbert d'Oisy, was appointed to the management of this school on the 26th of January, 1819. The number of pupils in September 1824 was 45. Of the above, one was free on the foundation, and four from other causes.

The terms in this school are one guinea per quarter.

Italian School.

THE Italian School is taught by the same master, and is usually composed of those scholars who have attained considerable proficiency in French. The number of pupils in September 1824 was three.

Terms: By the regulations, one guinea and a half per quarter, reduced to one guinea per quarter by the present master, with the approbation of the managers.

The Drawing School.

THE present master is Mr. Ferdinand Besancele.

The number of pupils in September 1824 was 6. The terms one guinea and half per quarter.

The Spanish School.

Mr. Ferdinand Besancele was appointed in January 1821 teacher of the Spanish language.

In September 1824 there were 8 pupils. The terms one guinea and half per quarter.

IN the preceding statements we have detailed the principal circumstances connected with the two branches of the Institution.

The following Lists will show the number of students in the Collegiate department, and the number of pupils in the Schools.

THE total number of students in the Collegiate department attending in the session ending May 1825, was 146. The following summary will show the Counties from which they came, and the several Ecclesiastical bodies to which they belonged.

County of	Synod of Ulster.	seceding Synod.	Reformed Presbytery of Covenanters.	Presbytery of Antrim.	Others.	Exp.
ANTRIM - - 20 1 viz.	14	3	2	9	-	9
ARMAGH - 6 -	1	5	-	-	-	-
CATY - 1 -	1	-	-	-	-	-
DONOGAL - 7 -	5	2	-	-	-	-
DOWN - 53 -	21	15	1	-	-	14
LONDONDERRY, 21 -	18	4	1	-	-	4
MONAGHAN - 18 -	2	10	-	-	-	-
TYRONE - 11 -	5	5	-	-	1	-
LEUTH - 1 -	1	-	-	-	-	-
CORK - 3 -	-	-	-	-	1	9
ENGLAND - 1 -	-	-	-	-	1	-
JAMAICA - 1 -	-	-	-	-	-	1
146	64	44	5	2	3	30

The total number of students entered for the session 1825-6, is 160. Of these there are—

Belonging to the Synod of Ulster	-	-	-	64
to the Seceding Synod	-	-	-	40
to the Presbytery of Antrim	-	-	-	4
to the Reformed Presbytery	-	-	-	8
Students not intended for the Presbyterian ministry	-	-	-	44

160

Of the 44 students described as not intended for the Presbyterian ministry, the greater number are members of the Established Church. There are, however, in the number several Roman Catholics, and one or two of the Society of Friends.

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Although this establishment is open to all classes of the community, without distinction of sect, yet considering the great mass of the population in Belfast and the adjoining districts, the Institution must be viewed as essentially Presbyterian; all the Professors, except one, and the masters of the two boarding schools, are in fact Presbyterians.

THE following Table shows in one view the number of Students attending each lecture for the session 1825-6:—

		Public Pupils.	Private Pupils.
Divinity Lecture, under Dr. Hanna	- -	25	-
Ditto - - - - Dr. Edgar	- -	25	-
Hebrew - - - -	- -	48	-
Natural Philosophy - - - -	- -	19	5
Moral Philosophy - - - -	- -	32	13
Senior Mathematical Class - - - -	- -	12	9
Junior - - - - Dr. - - - -	- -	50	-
Logic and Belles Lettres - - - -	- -	30	13
Greek - - - -	- -	25	7
Latin - - - -	- -	15	7
Anatomy and Physiology - - - -	- -	15	-

THE following Table shows the state of Attendance in the Schools on the 10th of October 1825:—

SCHOOLS.	Total Number of Pupils.	Day Scholars.	Boarders.	Free Scholars, [included in the preceding Columns.]		OBSERVATIONS.
				On the Foundation.	Free from other Causes.	
English School - -	191	350	41	7	12	Besides these, 4 boys board with the Classical Master, who do not leave classes, but attend the other Schools.
Classical School - -	143	319	24	9	9	
Mathematical and Mercantile School - -	217	-	-	11	11	Of the entire number, 57 learn Mathematics, 167 Arithmetic, 45 Geography, and 11 Book-keeping. The same pupil in many instances attending two or more of these branches. Of the Free Scholars on the Foundation, 3 learn Mathematics, 8 Arithmetic, and 2 Geography, and of the Free Scholars on other accounts, 4 learn Mathematics, 7 Arithmetic, and 2 Geography.
Writing School - -	174	-	-	6	5	
French School - -	34	-	-	-	6	
Drawing School - -	16	-	-	-	1	
Spanish School - -	4	-	-	-	-	

The number of distinct Pupils in all the Schools is 302.

* *Public Students*—are those who not only attend the Lectures delivered by the Professor to all his pupils, but who also attend daily at a separate and additional hour, when they are regularly examined on the substance of the Lectures, &c. They have also to submit to certain public examinations on entering the class, and at the close of the course.

Private Students—are those who attend only the daily Profections of the Professor, and who are not required to submit to the separate examinations above-mentioned.

Besides

Besides the pupils of the town of Belfast and its immediate neighbourhood, who may be reckoned as amounting to about 114, the schools contained during the year ended October 1825, 188 scholars from 19 counties in Ireland, according to the following list:—

Down	-	-	-	70	Tipperary	-	-	-	1
Antrim	-	-	-	32	Queen's County	-	-	-	2
Derry	-	-	-	19	Kilkenny	-	-	-	1
Armagh	-	-	-	9	Louth	-	-	-	1
Tyrone	-	-	-	8	Wicklow	-	-	-	1
Clare	-	-	-	1	Carlow	-	-	-	1
Sligo	-	-	-	2	Cork	-	-	-	9
Donegal	-	-	-	4	Other places	-	-	-	12
Cavan	-	-	-	4					
Fermanagh	-	-	-	3	Total	-	-	-	188
Monaghan	-	-	-	1					
Dublin	-	-	-	7					

This list includes about 20 students of the Collegiate department, who have availed themselves of the opportunity afforded by the connexion of the school and college, of improving themselves in such preparatory studies as they thought necessary. In like manner, several of the scholars not intended for learned professions, have attended one or more of the College classes, to acquire a higher kind of Education than the mere ordinary course of instruction which the schools could supply.

From a statement (which will be found in the Appendix,) containing an account of the number of pupils who have passed through the several schools, it will appear that 1,368 pupils have received, or are in the course of receiving instruction in the mathematical and mercantile school, since the year 1814, when the school was first opened; and it is ascertained, that 189 individuals, who have received instruction from Mr. Thomson, either in his school or in his college classes, have acted as teachers in different schools throughout the kingdom. This number is, however, supposed to fall far short of the actual number of teachers trained up in the schools.

N° 27.

Under the system of instruction and management which we have attempted to describe, the Institution stands high in public estimation. Those persons, who, from their intelligence, rank and station in society, are best qualified to judge of its merits, express themselves in the strongest terms, as to the benefits which it has conferred upon the north of Ireland. This approbation is not confined to any particular class or party. The Lord Bishop of Down and Connor, the Right Reverend Dr. Crolly, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church, resident at Belfast, the several persons whom we examined, connected with the Presbyterian body, and the resident nobility and gentry, all agree on this subject. For the words in which their sentiments are recorded, we beg leave to refer to the Appendix.

Appendix,
N° 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, &c.

We should, perhaps, have been contented to rest upon the weight of these authorities, if, in the course of our investigations we had not been led to perceive, that the Institution had assumed, during its progress, a different and more important character than that which it had obtained at its outset. It had been originally established as a seminary for general instruction; and though a wish appears to have been entertained at its foundation, that it should be connected with the Presbyterian Synods, we found, that it was only of late years that it had become a college for the education of the Presbyterian clergy of Ireland. With reference, therefore, to that important object, we thought it our duty to examine, whether the long established Universities of Scotland might not possess advantages more than sufficient to counterbalance the benefits which, under the most favourable circumstances, could be expected to result from an Institution so recently established as that at Belfast.

The Reverend James Carliile, a native of Scotland, educated in the University of Glasgow, who, at the time of his examination, was Moderator of the Synod of Ulster, gave his opinion, as follows:—"I consider a home education a thing
" of very great importance. I consider, from what I have seen at Glasgow, and
" what

Appendix,
N° 19.

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" what I have seen here, of those who have returned from Glasgow, that it is highly desirable that our students should be educated in Ireland; and from what I have seen of the effects of the Institution, I do conceive it is of great importance."

With respect to the Irish students at Glasgow, Mr. Carille added,—“ They were left with little check or control over them; they seldom brought letters of introduction; they had no acquaintance, and they kept almost entirely by themselves; even in the divinity hall they generally sat in a back place by themselves, and formed little acquaintance among the other students. Besides, what they did there was unknown to their parents or guardians here; and from what I have heard, I have no doubt many of them fell into practices that were very dangerous to them.”—He adds, “ that the characters of the students and their education are highly advanced in respectability since he came to this country, which he attributes, in a great measure, to their home education.”

Appendix,
N° 21.

Mr. Porter, clerk of the Synod of Ulster, says,—“ I wish to maintain our connection with the Institution, still more for the moral, than even for the literary advantages which it affords to our young men. These moral advantages arise from students being placed under the eyes of ministers and other persons, who take an interest in their well being. Thoughtless boys are exposed to great moral danger, by being sent to a place in which they are utterly unknown, and where they may practise every species of folly with comparative secrecy. With respect to literary advantages, the students in the Institution are so few, that it is in the power of each professor to pay attention to every boy in his class; and to examine him every day.”

Appendix,
N° 23, 24, 25.

Mr. Cooke, late Moderator of the Synod of Ulster, thus expresses his opinion on this point:—“ I think Education in Ireland is greatly preferable to Education abroad, on account of the young men being nearer the eye of their spiritual guardians. Scotland I consider most favourable to discipline for Scotch students, Ireland for Irish students.”

Appendix,
N° 7, 8.

The following Extract from the evidence of Doctor Hanna, the Divinity Professor, will show his opinion of the benefit to be derived from having the candidates for the ministry educated at Belfast:—

“ I am of opinion, that the Irish students in Scotland laboured under considerable disadvantages; and from the mode of Education here, I am also of opinion, that a great spirit of emulation is excited among the young men. Even this is not all; it is now impossible for a young man to pass through our classes without attending to his business. I would wish not to speak disrespectfully of the Scotch colleges; but when I attended, a student might go through a class and not know much of the business of the class, and leave it before the close of the session. There is one advantage the divinity students have here, which they have not in Scotland: there are no students that come here to study, that have not friends who are acquainted with some people at Belfast, and they are invited to the houses of private families. I am of opinion, that our young men are much improved in their manners and appearance, in consequence of their studying here. I believe that will be acknowledged to be a fact, by those who knew what the young men were from the Scotch colleges, and what they now are from our Institution. From my connections through the different parts of the town, I can, whenever I choose to do it, make myself intimately acquainted with the private conduct of every student belonging to my class.” Other testimony, to the same general effect, will be found in the Appendix.

To the opinions in favour of the Education given at Belfast, there appeared to be a prominent exception, resting upon a point of considerable importance. Mr. Cooke, when Moderator of the Synod, had publicly expressed his opinion, in an examination before a Committee of the House of Lords, in 1825, “ That he entertained very great fear, that the Institution, as at present constituted, would finally become, as it had already in some degree, a great seminary of Arianism.”

Apprehensions, similar to those expressed by Mr. Cooke, had been manifested by the Synod of Ulster. In the Seceding Synod (which requires from all its clergy subscription to the Westminster Confession of Faith) the alarm had been less felt.

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The attention of that body appeared, nevertheless, to have been drawn to the consideration of the subject, as, at their annual general meeting in 1823, a motion was made, and unanimously adopted, "That the Synod deeply regretted the introduction of Professors reputed to be of Arian principles into the Institution, and that they strongly detested such principles."

Under these circumstances, we thought it our duty to examine particularly into the origin and ground of these apprehensions. We were informed, that one of the four Vice Presidents, and several of the gentlemen appointed by the Proprietors, as Managers and Visitors of the Institution, professed Arian principles; that, in addition to these, Mr. Bruce, the Professor of Latin and Greek; Mr. Hincks, the Professor of Hebrew, and head Master of the classical school; Mr. M'Ewen, the Lecturer on Elocution; and Mr. Montgomery, the Master of the English school, were also Arians.

It was with reference to their appointments, that Mr. Cooke, who is favourably disposed towards home education, on general grounds, stated to us, that as the Institution is at present constituted, he should, with all its inconveniences, prefer Glasgow to the Belfast Institution, as a resort for the students of the Presbyterian ministry. "There are," he adds, "some of those who exercise considerable influence over the Belfast Institution, of whose religious opinions and practical piety I do not entertain a favourable opinion. These persons become prominent, while better men keep in the back ground. The strain of public preaching is also in Glasgow almost universally evangelical—so is the tone of public conversation. Preaching and conversation of another character hold a public and eminent station in Belfast. Hence I apprehend, ultimately, a dangerous influence and injurious effect, as the Belfast Institution is at present constituted. Were the Institution thoroughly reformed, my scruples concerning the Education for the Ministry in Belfast would be removed."

Though the fears thus expressed pointed to ultimate danger and indirect influence, rather than to the existence of any immediate evil, we proceeded to inquire, whether Arian principles were in fact taught in the Institution, and whether they could be shown to prevail amongst those who had been educated there.

Upon these points we examined a variety of witnesses. By their concurrent testimony we have been led to believe, that whatever may be apprehended from the countenance and support indirectly given to Arian principles in the College, the whole tendency of the instruction, both in the divinity and other classes, is, to use the expression of one of the witnesses, to "lead away from Arianism." We believe also, that whatever may be the religious tenets of the different Professors, they have strictly conformed to the engagement respectively entered into by them, not to interfere, directly or indirectly, with the religious opinions of the students under their charge; and that they have not availed themselves of such opportunities as their situation in the college might be supposed to have afforded them, of inculcating or disseminating their own peculiar opinions.

On this head, the strongest assurances were given to us by all the persons connected with the Institution, whom we examined. It appeared, that as soon as the opinion expressed by Mr. Cooke was known at Belfast, the students had voluntarily assembled, for the purpose of meeting the assertion with a decided contradiction; and they resolved to record their conviction, that "the pledge given by the several Professors, not to interfere, directly or indirectly, with the religious opinions of the students, had been so faithfully adhered to, that there had not occurred to their knowledge a single instance of its being violated."

The Board of Faculty had also on the same occasion declared,—"That if the words used by Mr. Cooke meant to convey the impression, that the doctrines of Arianism had been taught by them in the Institution, (farther than it might have been necessary for the two Professors of Theology, who were avowed Trinitarians, to expound the views of various sectaries), or that any individual of all the Professors had, in the least degree, promulgated those doctrines in the Institution, or had in any way whatever tampered with the peculiar religious opinions of his pupils, that they contained a gross and scandalous libel on the Professors, not only unsupported by facts, but in direct and known opposition to them."

The joint Boards of Managers and Visitors also published a declaration on the same subject, wherein they stated—"that such representation of the present state and future tendency of the Belfast Academical Institution was altogether groundless and imaginary, and that the Boards had full assurance, that no attempt had ever been made by the Professors, to inculcate on the minds of the students, directly or indirectly, the peculiar tenets of any denomination of Christians."

The Proprietors, at their annual meeting in July 1825, passed a vote of thanks to the joint Boards of Managers and Visitors, for their prompt, temperate and firm declaration, that the Belfast Academical Institution never was a seminary of Arianism, nor likely to become so.

These declarations appear to be strictly true, with respect to all the Professors who have subscribed the declaration before alluded to. It must be observed, however, with respect to Mr. M'Ewen, the Lecturer on Elocution, by whom, as we have already noticed, that engagement has never been signed, that an infringement of the principle laid down in it has taken place.

Amongst the prize books distributed by him on one occasion to the pupils of his class, some were included which were decidedly of an Arian character, and which ought not to have been put into the hands of the students. Mr. M'Ewen admits it was an inconsiderate act; he states, that he had no intention of making proselytes; that the moment it became the subject of remark he regretted it, and has since avoided doing any thing of the kind. The Board of Faculty subsequently ordered, that no books shall be distributed as prizes, which have not been previously submitted to inspection, a regulation which it is to be hoped will prevent for the future any similar breach of the rules or principles of the Institution.

It is stated by Mr. Cooke, that "he never knew the Belfast Academical Institution to be so free of anti-evangelical students as at present;" and with respect to the persons who have received their academical instruction there, Dr. Hanna stated, that there were 19 or 20 ordained ministers in the Synod of Ulster, who had been in his class; of these he has no doubt that all but one are orthodox. Of twenty-eight probationers, who had been also in his class, one only had professed Arian opinions, which it is probable he had adopted before he came into the college.

Dr. Edgar, who belongs to the Seceding Synod, and whose doctrines are therefore in strict conformity with those of the Church of Scotland, expressed his conviction, that the Institution in its present state is not calculated to promote Arianism. To the evidence of these gentlemen, as well as to that of Dr. Young, Mr. Carlile, Mr. Barnett, and Mr. Heron, the Moderator of the Seceding Synod, we here leave particularly to refer.

Mr. Carlile informed us generally, with regard to the prevalence of Arian principles in the north of Ireland, that "Arianism when it was introduced, was the fashionable philosophy of the day." He states "that it came into Scotland from Dr. Samuel Clarke and his party in England, and it came from Scotland into Ireland from some of the Professors there; it then became fashionable for a time in this country also, and those who held orthodox sentiments were looked upon as men of little science or talent; but true religion is from its nature, and from the circumstances of the poor, always most acceptable to them; the rich have many temptations to reject it, which the poor have not."

Mr. Cooke also confirmed this view; he states—"that Arianism is very much on the decrease; it was the greatest perhaps about 100 years ago. At the time the Presbytery of Antrim was separated from the Synod of Ulster, it made very considerable progress under the patronage of high names; as Abernethy, the author of a very excellent work upon the attributes, who gave it a great deal of eclat. It afterwards declined for a time, but there was subsequently a revival. Forty or fifty years ago it might be at its height, and remained stationary for a time, or was even upon the increase, but latterly it has decidedly declined."

THE extent to which Arian principles are understood at present to exist in the several Presbyterian bodies in Ireland, may be stated as follows:—

In the Synod of Ulster, in which there are at present 197 congregations, and about 200 ministers, it has been stated to us, that there are 34 or 35 who hold Arian

Appendix,
N^o 15.

Appendix,
N^{os} 14, 16, 17, 18,
19.

Appendix,
N^o 19.

Appendix,
N^{os} 23, 24, 25.

Arian doctrines. In the Seceding Synod there is no Minister of Arian principles. The Presbytery of Antrim and Synod of Munster contain altogether about 16 congregations, and 19 or 20 Ministers, of whom 17 are reported to be Anans.

In all the Presbyteries composing the Synod of Ulster, it was required, in conformity with the practice of the Scotch church, till a period comparatively recent, that every Minister should before ordination, sign the Westminster Confession of Faith, to which it was generally considered that no Arian could sincerely subscribe.

In some Presbyteries of that Synod, however, the practice of insisting on the subscription has been relinquished, and by a late regulation of the Synod, the necessity of signing this test has been dispensed with, and the Presbyteries are left to their own choice in this respect, some requiring the signature, others not.

It is important however to remark, that the circumstance of a particular Presbytery not requiring subscription as indispensable, by no means proves that the Ministers composing that Presbytery dissent from the standard doctrines of the Scotch Church. The candidate for the ministry is in all cases subject to examination on every point of his religious opinions and belief, before receiving his licence. Some of the Presbyteries which dispense with subscription are, according to the evidence of Dr. Hanna, as orthodox as those which require it.

Although by the general tenor of the evidence to which we have alluded, we were led to believe that the Education given at Belfast had not hitherto incalculated or tended to disseminate Arianism;—that out of the number of Ministers admitted of late years into the Synod of Ulster, a diminished rather than an increased proportion held those opinions, and that generally Arian principles had been for many years decreasing, it appeared that the Synod of Ulster regarded the subject with such anxiety, and entertained such lively apprehensions, that an injurious effect would be ultimately produced by the example of those individuals connected with the Institution, whose religious principles we have already alluded to, that they had thought it their duty to suggest to the Proprietors and Managers of the Institution, such an arrangement as would in their view guard against the danger they apprehended.

At a Meeting of the General Synod of Ulster in 1824, it was proposed, and unanimously agreed to, that—"Whenever the Moderator of this Synod shall be called on to vote at the election of a Professor in the Belfast Institution, he shall in due time convene the General Synod's fixed Committee, and cause to be laid before them the names of the several candidates, with their recommendatory testimonials, and shall afterwards communicate to the electors the opinion of the Committee."

The proposition of the Synod was taken into consideration by the Managers of the Institution in June 1825, who thereupon expressed their desire to meet as far possible the wishes of the Synod, and resolved as follows:—

"That the names and testimonials of the several candidates for professorships, which may hereafter become vacant in the Institution, shall be submitted to the Moderator of the General Synod of Ulster, on his applying for the same, for the purposes mentioned in said Overture. The original documents, being the property of the candidates, are not to be taken out of the Institution."

This Resolution was communicated by letter to the Synod at their annual meeting in 1825, at which the consideration of the subject was renewed, and the following, among other Overtures or Proposals, were agreed to:—

III. "Overtured and agreed to, That so soon as the Moderator of this Synod shall learn, upon any occasion, that a Professor is to be chosen in the Belfast Academical Institution, he shall immediately advise the several Presbyteries; and that each Presbytery shall thereupon appoint a Minister, and Elder to meet the Moderator in Belfast; and after examining testimonials, to give their opinion respecting the qualifications of candidates, which opinion the Moderator shall communicate to the electors, specifying the candidates whom they consider eligible."

IV. " Overtured, and agreed to :—

" 1. That this Synod deeply regret, that, by the appointment of some persons holding Arrian sentiments to professorships in the Belfast Academical Institution, a diminution of public confidence in that seminary has been produced.

" 2. This Synod direct their Committee, that in all cases of elections to professorships in the Belfast Academical Institution, they recommend to the attention of the electors none but persons of orthodox sentiments; and do expect and trust, that the Managers and Visitors of the Belfast Academical Institution shall, in all cases of election, hold in view the opinion of the Synod, respecting the necessity of electing such persons to professorships connected with the students of this church.

" 3. That the Synod do now appoint a Committee to negotiate with the Proprietors of the Belfast Academical Institution, respecting the recognition, by a bye-law, of the Overture of Synod, relative to election to professorships connected with the students of this church."

The Committee appointed as above to negotiate with the Proprietors of the Belfast Institution, met on the 29th September, 1825, at Belfast, and communicated the following Resolution to the Court of Proprietors then assembled :—

" That our Moderator be instructed respectfully to request the Proprietors of the Belfast Academical Institution to authorize, by a bye-law, or by such other mode as may be consistent with the Act of Incorporation, the joint Boards of Managers and Visitors, whenever a Professor is about to be chosen, to give notice of the day of election to the Moderator of the Synod, in sufficient time for him to convene a Committee of the Synod in Belfast, and to afford to the said Committee access to the testimonials of the different candidates, for the purpose of forming an opinion respecting the qualifications of such candidates, which opinion the Moderator is directed to communicate to the electors, specifying those candidates whom the Committee consider eligible."

In reply to this Resolution of the Committee of Synod, the assembled body of the Proprietors came to the following Resolution :—" The Proprietors of the Belfast Academical Institution have received the communication from the General Synod of Ulster, with all due respect, and a sincere wish to cultivate a connexion so beneficial to both bodies.

" As to the Education of their students of divinity, they conceive that the Synod are in possession of the influence which they desire, inasmuch as they have the appointment of a Professor of Divinity and Church History, the only branches peculiarly connected with the students of their church. With respect to the other departments, the Proprietors are pledged not to suffer any interference on the part of the Professors with the religious sentiments of their pupils. With their adherence to this pledge, they understand that the Synod are satisfied.

" The Moderator of the Synod, being a visitor and elector, *ex officio*, has it in his power to consult with the different Presbyteries, and to announce their opinion to the electors assembled; and the Secretary will have orders to afford him copies of the certificates of the candidates.

" This appears to be the substance of what the Synod require, and may be effected without any alteration in the bye-laws, or violation of the principles on which the Institution was founded. Any further extension of the influence of the Synod, in the election of the Professors, would be inconsistent with these, and would give just offence to other denominations of Christians.

" In this opinion they hope that the reverend Synod will concur, being very anxious that no cause of discontent should arise between them and the Institution."

These proceedings of the Committee were reported to the General Annual Meeting of the Synod in June 1826; and at the same time, the Secretary of the Belfast Academical Institution addressed a letter to the Moderator, in the name of the joint Boards of Managers and Visitors, in which, amongst other matters, he states as follows :—" That the Managers and Visitors beg leave to state, that the Synod of Ulster may calculate on continuing to experience every facility, upon the part of the Directors of this national seminary, in carrying into effect the wishes

" of

" of that reverend body, with respect to the Education of the students under their pastoral jurisdiction.

The foregoing communications having been received and taken into consideration by the Synod at the same Meeting, it was resolved, after long deliberation and much discussion,—“ That the Synod having received every assurance that the Overture of 1824, relative to the election of Professors in the Belfast Institution, sanctioned as it has been by the joint Boards of Managers and Visitors, and recognized in principle by the Court of Proprietors, on the 29th Sept. 1825, is calculated to afford the same security, and produce the same beneficial effects, that were contemplated by the Overture of 1825, relative to the same subject; and believing that the Resolution of the joint Boards, respecting the Overture of 1824, will at all times be acted on with good faith, and hoping that the Court of Proprietors may yet see the wisdom of securing its permanence by some legal enactment, is now disposed to rest satisfied with it.” The Synod also came to the following Resolution,—“ That it be earnestly recommended to the electors in the Belfast Institution, that in future no Minister of any denomination, holding a pastoral charge, be appointed to any of its Professorships.”

Appendix,
N° 29.

With these Resolutions the long continued discussion between the Synod of Ulster and the Institution has been terminated. By the first it appears, that the Synod are satisfied that the arrangement which they originally proposed to the Institution, and which was acceded to by that body in 1825, will sufficiently secure the object they had in view. By the second Resolution, that in future no Minister, holding a pastoral charge, shall be appointed to a Professorship, the Synod will obtain an additional security. It has been a matter of complaint, that though a Professor might be silent with respect to his peculiar tenets within the walls of the Institution, he has been at liberty openly to maintain them before such of his pupils as might form a part of his congregation; a practice which will, by the operation of this Resolution, be rendered impossible, with respect to any Professor hereafter to be elected.

This Resolution is properly restrained from disturbing any of the existing appointments, none of which ought we think to be affected by it.

It is to be observed, with reference to the Seceding Synod, that although, as we have already stated, they in 1823 expressed their “detestation of Arian principles,” they were of opinion, that “as the Professors had come under solemn engagements not to interfere with the religious opinions of the students, and as no fundamental principle of the Institution had been violated, they saw no grounds for dissolving their connection with the Institution.”

By them therefore no further security was sought for. We think it right, however, to point out, that this respectable portion of the Presbyterian body has no immediate representative in the Belfast Academical Institution; and it appears reasonable, that the Moderator of that body (if at any future time the Act of Incorporation should be amended) should be placed in a position, with reference to the Institution, in all respects similar to that of the Moderator of the Synod of Ulster.

In determining, whether it was our duty to recommend this Institution to the protection and support of the Government, we were most seriously impressed by the charge which had been made against it, on the ground of its tendency to disseminate Arianism. We looked therefore with considerable anxiety to the communications which had taken place upon that subject, between the Synod of Ulster, and the Proprietors and Managers of the Institution.

The Synod of Ulster cannot but be considered as the body most interested in preserving the orthodoxy of its own Ministers, and it has been publicly stated by Mr. Cooke, that the mode by which they sought to secure that object was by obtaining an efficient representation of the sentiments of the Synod, in all cases of election of Professors, by which he thought an effectual barrier would be opposed to the admission of Arian candidates.

The Managers and Visitors have agreed to adopt the regulations proposed in the Overture of 1824; and we think it right to state distinctly, what we understand to be the substance and effect of these regulations.

It appears to us, that the joint Boards of Managers and Visitors have agreed to furnish the names and testimonials of the different candidates to the Moderator of the Synod of Ulster, in order that he may submit them to the Synod's fixed Committee.

The Managers and Visitors appear further to have undertaken to receive from the Moderator the opinion of the Committee, as to the different candidates; and the spirit in which that opinion is to be received is clearly defined in a letter which forms a part of the correspondence on this subject, addressed to the Moderator in June 1826, in which the joint Boards assured the Synod, "that they might calculate on continuing to experience every facility upon the part of the Directors of that Seminary, in carrying into effect the wishes of that reverend body, with respect to the Education of the students under their pastoral jurisdiction."

We think it should be further provided, that the names of the several candidates for Professorships, and copies of their testimonials, should be sent at least ten days before the election, to each of the official Visitors named in the Act of Incorporation. These Visitors, being electors, will no doubt attend whenever their presence is required; and when their attention shall have been deliberately called to the qualifications of the different candidates, no apprehension can be entertained, that any Professor will ever be appointed, against whom a reasonable objection can be raised.

That the substance of the Overture of 1824 should receive the solemn sanction of the Proprietors, by being made the subject of a bye-law, is in itself a reasonable request; and we trust that there will be no unwillingness on the part of the Proprietors to comply with it.

The regulation which provides, that no Professor who may be hereafter elected shall hold a pastoral charge, should also, in our opinion, receive the sanction of a bye-law.

It is hardly necessary for us to observe, that as long as the Institution continues to be so closely connected with the Synods, and its Directors are desirous of educating persons destined to the Presbyterian ministry, they cannot fail to be aware, that the interest of the Institution will be best consulted by the election of such Professors only as would be acceptable to those bodies.

In an Institution for educating Presbyterian Ministers, some securities appear to us to be necessary, on the ground on which they were sought for by the Synod of Ulster. We are, at the same time, aware of the difficulty there would have been in providing such securities, without infringing upon the fundamental principles on which the Institution has been founded.

Among the most important of these, is the regulation which not only secures Education to all descriptions of students, without distinction of sect or profession, but which provides also, that in the appointment to Professorships, not theological, the selection shall be determined solely by the moral character and literary acquirements of the candidates, without reference to religious opinions.

We are persuaded, that under the existing situation and circumstances of Ireland, the abandonment of this principle would materially impair the utility of the Institution. We must repeat, therefore, that to have devised such regulations as should have satisfied the apprehensions of the Synod, without subverting the fundamental principle of the Institution, would have imposed a difficulty upon us, which we are willingly relieved from by the arrangement to which we have alluded. We shall content ourselves, therefore, with expressing our sincere hope and confident expectation, that the regulations we have described, and the suggestions we have offered, respecting them, will be scrupulously carried into effect.

Having thus observed upon the principal objection urged against the Institution, it is our duty not to pass, without notice, a charge which formerly attached to it, of a different character. It has been affirmed, that some of the persons connected with the Establishment have entertained opinions subversive of government and civil order. We feel it to be no more than an act of justice to declare our conviction, founded on the unanimous opinions of all the persons with whom we have communicated on the subject, that there exists at present no foundation whatever for such a supposition.

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By the foregoing account we have, as we trust, sufficiently developed the character of the Institution, and have shown what are the opinions of others, as to its influence and effects. It now becomes our duty to state, that the opinion which we have formed of it, as well from extended inquiries as from our own personal inspection, is highly favourable.

The zeal and efficiency of the several Professors, the comprehensive and useful character of the instruction, the attention and good conduct of the students, entitle the Establishment to an expression of our approbation.

We have been led to consider this Institution as a most important seminary for the Education of the Ministers of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland; and we agree entirely in the opinions which we have already referred to, that under all the circumstances of situation and local connection, the students destined to that ministry will, taken collectively, be upon the whole more carefully and effectively instructed in Belfast, than if they had to encounter the difficulties, and incur the expense of seeking for their education in distant Universities; an alternative, however, which is still open to them, if they wish to resort to it.

If, in the earlier periods of the existence of this Institution, and before the arrangements for instruction in it had obtained a consistent and settled form, and its character had been fully established, doubts upon these points might have been entertained, we think they must altogether cease, when it is considered, that in addition to the approbation of the Institution, so generally expressed by the community at large, the Presbyterian body may be now considered as concurring in an anxious wish for its maintenance and support.

Though it is with a view to its connexion with the Presbyterian ministry chiefly, that we consider the Institution as entitled to the favour and countenance of the Government, it must not be forgotten, that as a place of general Education, it can hardly fail to have a beneficial influence, not only in the Province of Ulster, but throughout the whole of Ireland. The increasing wealth and importance of the district in which it is situated, would entitle it to consideration as a local Institution; its benefits, however, cannot fail to be more widely extended, as it affords at a moderate expense, and to all classes of persons, without distinction or jealousy on the ground of religious opinions, a general and useful Education.

Under these circumstances, we trust we shall be justified in recommending, that the grant, which has now for some years been discontinued, should be restored to the Institution, which would thus be again recognized and upheld by the State.

We are of opinion, however, that the grant should not be made in the same manner, or distributed according to the same rules as it was formerly, but that a certain sum should be placed annually at the disposal of the Lord Lieutenant, for the benefit of the Institution, and that on the election of any Professor, whether appointed by the Managers and Visitors, or by the respective Synods, the Board of Management should transmit to His Excellency, copies of the testimonials both of character and qualification of the individual elected; and that on the inspection of these certificates, the Lord Lieutenant should grant or withhold the salary destined for such Professorship, out of the fund so placed at his disposal.

We beg leave to offer the following Table, in which such Salaries are proposed, as would render the Professors respectable and independent, without tending to abate the exertion necessary to improve their incomes by the amount received from the fees of the students.

	Proposed Salary.
Professor of Natural Philosophy	£ 150
Mathematics	150
Moral Philosophy	150
Logic and Belles Lettres	150
Latin and Greek	150
Anatomy and Physiology	150
Hebrew	150
Divinity (Synod of Ulster)	150
Ditto - (Seceding Synod)	150
	£ 1,350

The Lecturer on Elocution is not included in this List, as no part of his emoluments have at any time been received from the funds of the Institution.

In this List we have assigned to each Professor the salary which in our opinion he ought to receive. We think, however, that the sum of £. 50 may fairly be withheld from the present Mathematical and Hebrew Professors, and from the two present Professors of Divinity. The two former Professors are also Masters of the two Boarding Schools, and thereby derive considerable profit; but as it is intended, that in future no Master of the schools shall fill a Professor's chair, the full salary of £. 150 ought to be paid to all future Professors of Hebrew and Mathematics, as well as to the other Professors.

With respect to the Professors of Divinity, it is to be observed, that both of them at present have congregations in Belfast, which they will no doubt continue to hold, as the recent suggestion of the Synod of Ulster on that head, is intended only to apply to future appointments. We think therefore, that for the lives of each of the present Professors, the sum of £. 100 annually will, in addition to their congregations, be found sufficient, but that their successors ought to receive the same sum as the other Professors. By this arrangement there will be for the present a surplus of £. 350 a year to carry to the general account of the Institution, which we are satisfied may be usefully employed towards repairing the buildings, or furnishing the different Lecturers with the apparatus and other things of which they stand so much in need.

T. FRANKLAND LEWIS. (L. S.)

W. GRANT. (L. S.)

A. R. BLAKE. (L. S.)

Dublin, 27 January 1827.

COPY OF A

LETTER from J. LESLIE FOSTER, Esq. and J. GLASSFORD, Esq.

Two of the Commissioners,

To the Right Honourable Robert Peel.

SIR,

Dublin, 1st February, 1827.

THE circumstances which have obliged us to withhold our signatures from the Report made by a majority of the Commissioners of Irish Education Inquiry; upon the Belfast Institution, are of so peculiar a nature, that we trust we shall be excused for the course which we adopt, of addressing to His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department, a letter explanatory of our views.

We are deeply impressed with a sense of the advantages which might be derived from the encouragement of the Belfast Institution, and with a conviction of the strong claims of the Presbyterian Clergy of Ireland to the extension of parliamentary assistance for their Education, upon any terms that should not involve matter of just and necessary objection. We feel it impossible, however, to join in recommending measures to His Majesty, which might eventually cause the bounty of the state to be employed in diffusing principles which we deem inconsistent with the fundamental truths of Christianity.

There is no church which, by its articles of faith, maintains the divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, and all the important doctrines connected with that truth, more unequivocally than the Church of Scotland, to which the Presbyterians of Ireland belong; and accordingly, we observe, that the appointment of Arians to Professorships in the Belfast Institution, has of late years called forth the strongest expressions of disapprobation, both from the Synod of Ulster and the Seceding Synod.

It is the peculiar feature of the present case, that while only a small proportion of the Irish Presbyterian Ministers hold Arian principles, and while these principles are rejected and condemned by the Presbyterian body in general, a majority among the acting managers of the Belfast Institution are stated by respectable witnesses to be Arians. We further observe, that while it is a rule of the Institution, that religious opinions are not to be adverted to in elections, it has nevertheless happened, that the present Professor of Greek, the present Professor of Hebrew, who is also classical teacher in the school department, and head of one of the two boarding houses, the present Lecturer on Elocution, and the present English Master in the school-department, who is head of the other boarding house, are avowed Arians. For the nature of their views we beg leave to refer generally to the evidence.

We are satisfied, that as yet these appointments have not led to an extension of Arian doctrines amongst the Presbyterian body. But we apprehend, that Professors and Masters, in the performance of the duties which are assigned to their offices, must necessarily be swayed by their own views upon so important a subject, and that a powerful though tacit influence must be continually exercised by them upon the young persons in their classes, and still more upon such as live under their roofs. The pupils must feel a general respect for the judgment of the able persons by whom they are instructed, whose principles are no secret, and who, though silent in respect to such questions within the walls of the Institution, are not so in the pulpits of Belfast, or upon other occasions.

It is obvious, that the danger would be greatly enhanced, if, by a continuation of elections similar in their results to those which we have mentioned, a decided majority of the Teachers and Professors should hereafter entertain these views.

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The doctrines in question are as yet rejected by a vast majority of the Presbyterians; but should they obtain a preponderance in the institution, which is to form the religious opinions of the pastors and instructors of the rising generation, the consequence might be to reverse, at a future day, the proportion which the orthodox members of the Church of Scotland and the Arians now bear to each other, in the Irish Presbyterian body.

Although, therefore, the existing state of things has not as yet produced those effects which might not unreasonably have been expected, we cannot consider this circumstance as affording a sufficient security for the future. We hope and believe, that a large majority of the Presbyterian clergy of Ireland, the great body of the Presbyterian people, and a considerable majority, if not of the Managers, at least of the persons connected with the Belfast Institution, would view with pleasure the adoption of any reasonable regulation for securing that, in future all such, at least of the Professors and Masters as have any share in the formation of religious opinions, should be persons believing in the divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ. We need scarcely observe, that the question is not one of toleration towards any who deny that important truth, but whether they are to be endowed by the state as the instructors of youth.

Although it was natural that no provision should have been originally made against an unforeseen danger of this kind, it appears to us, that after it has become manifest, we are no longer at liberty to recommend the Institution to His Majesty, except upon the condition of its affording a practical security upon this subject.

We feel that the Proprietors and Managers have an unquestionable right to maintain their present rules, if they are satisfied to continue dependent exclusively on their own resources; but when they apply for the assistance of Parliament, it seems to us to follow, that they must be prepared to reconsider any circumstance connected with their Institution, which may prevent its being deemed a proper object for the public aid. The Professorships to which it appears to us, in a more peculiar and necessary manner, that the security should apply, are those which are connected, more or less, with the study of theology, namely, the Professorships of Hebrew, of Greek, and of Moral Philosophy. But we beg leave to add, that, for the same reasons which influence us in this recommendation, and only differing in degree, it would in our view be still more satisfactory, that the security should be extended to all the Professorships in the Institution.

The two Masterships of the boarding schools, which stand in no need of public assistance, may by some be thought to be thereby exempted from any consideration on the present occasion. But in looking to the adoption of regulations for the Institution generally, we cannot exclude the schools from our view, as they appear to us to form the basis on which the future instruction of the pupils is to be raised.

It is evident also, that the Schools must participate in any advantage which may accrue to the Institution at large, and would be necessarily, though less directly, benefited by any support or encouragement which should be granted to the Collegiate department. We cannot therefore propose to exclude the two Masterships of the Boarding Schools from the application of any safeguard which may be deemed advisable with respect to Professorships.

We observe that the Synod of Ulster at their last meeting in 1826, after a debate of two days, came to a Resolution by which they in substance recede from those views on the subject of a permanent security, which they had strongly advanced in their meetings of the years 1824 and 1825, and now deem it expedient, under all the circumstances of the case, to rest satisfied with a Resolution of the Court of Proprietors, which the Synod in 1825 had declared insufficient for the attainment of their object.

If no other principle of decision were to be adopted, than that of satisfying the requisitions of the Synod, the question might thus be set at rest. But we are deeply impressed with the conviction, that an important responsibility is now imposed upon the Legislature, of guarding the fundamental truths of Christianity from being invaded, through means and resources which the State is called on to supply.

It

It now remains to consider what mode of security should be adopted. The subscription of a test appears to us open to the various objections stated in the Evidence, nor do we think it desirable that the task of ascertaining the religious opinions either of the candidates, or of the elected, should be thrown upon His Majesty's Government. With respect to the measure originally suggested by the Synod of Ulster, we apprehend that some practical inconvenience might be found to attend the calling together the representatives of the several Presbyteries as therein proposed. Nor do we see any safeguard in the mere expression of the opinion of the Synod, while the Electors should continue at full liberty to disregard it.

We conceive that it would be a more satisfactory arrangement, that on every future Election, each Candidate should be obliged to procure a certificate from at least four of the persons, who during the six preceding years, had held the situation of Moderator, either in the Synod of Ulster or the Seceding Synod, stating, "that after having made due inquiry and examination, they have no reasonable doubt that the Candidate believes in the Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ."

There would generally be not fewer than twelve persons to whom application might be thus made; individuals who had been selected by their respective Synods for their peculiar respectability, and to whose judgment such a consideration might with the greatest propriety be entrusted. We think it therefore not unreasonable to expect, that the Candidate should be a person able to obtain this certificate from at least four out of that number.

Whatever course is to be adopted, it seems to us indispensable, that a bye-law should be passed for carrying it into effect, and that nothing should be left undefined or discretionary on a subject of this nature.

We have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most faithful and obedient Servants,

(signed) J. LESLIE FOSTER.

J. GLASSFORD.

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APPENDIX.

BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION.

Appendix, No. 1.

THE ACT OF INCORPORATION AND BYE-LAWS OF THE
BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION; 1810.

AN ACT to incorporate and regulate an Institution, to be called THE BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION, for affording to Youth a Classical and Mercantile Education.

Possible.

WHEREAS very considerable sums of money* have been subscribed by various inhabitants of the town of Belfast, in the county of Antrim, in that part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, called Ireland, and by other persons in different parts of the kingdom, for the purpose of establishing and maintaining an Academic Institution, in the said town of Belfast, for affording to youth a classical and mercantile education, and for teaching mathematics, natural philosophy, logic, metaphysics, belles lettres, moral philosophy, chemistry, botany, agriculture, and other branches of science†.

And whereas the purposes of the said Institution would be materially promoted if the subscribers thereto were incorporated and enabled to have and use a common seal and name by which they may be known and distinguished, sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, and also authorized to purchase, take and enjoy messuages, lands or tenements, for the purposes of the said Institution.

May it therefore please Your Majesty,

Section 1.
Proprietors incorporated.

That it may be enacted, and be it enacted, by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that his Grace the Lord Primate of all Ireland, the most noble George Augustus Marquis of Donegall, the most noble Arthur Blundell Sandys Trumbull Marquis of Downshire, the right reverend the Lord Bishop of Down and Connor, the right reverend the Lord Bishop of Dromore, the right honourable Lord Arthur Hill, the right honourable Lord Marcus Hill, the honourable John O'Neill, the honourable Edward Ward, William Brownlow, Edward May, Francis Whittle, Gilbert M'Donnell, John Johnstone, James Douglas, Cunningham Greg, the reverend Edward May, William McCance, William Stevenson, Joseph Stevenson, William Tennent, Alexander McKay, John Alexander, Thomas Andrews, James Bahe, Nathaniel Callwell, Robert Callwell, Arthur Chichester, William Clarke, Victor Coates, John Cunningham, Benjamin Edwards, Hugh Edwards, Robert Getty, John Getty, Samuel Gibson, John Gregg, William Gregg, Hill Hamilton, the reverend Henry Henry, Henry Augustus Seymour Harvey, Samuel Hewitt, William Hunter, Adam Hunter, William Johnston, George Knox, George Langtry, Thomas Lewis, William Magee, John Martin, John McCammon, John McCance, Francis McCracken, Walter Roberts, John Russell, Alexander Scott, John Stewart, John McCance Stoupe, Robert Tennent, John Thompson, Robert Thompson, Samuel Thompson, William Thompson, Thomas Verner, Hugh Wilson, and Hugh Bell, who have severally subscribed any sum or sums of money for the purposes of the said Institution, together with all such other persons as shall here at the time of passing this Act, subscribed to the purposes of the said Institution, and paid to the Treasurer the sum so subscribed, and all such other persons as shall at any time hereafter respectively subscribe and pay the sum of twenty-two pounds fifteen shillings or upwards, for the aforesaid purposes, shall be and they are hereby made one distinct and separate body politic and corporate in deed and name, for the establishing and maintaining an Academic Institution, in the said town of Belfast, and shall have perpetual succession, and be called and distinguished by the name of "The Belfast Academic Institution," and that the said Proprietors shall be enabled to implead and sue, and to be impleaded and sued by that name, in any of his

Majesty's

* The sum subscribed amounts to £16,066. 5. 6. of which £12,375. 0. 3½ has been collected.

† According to the prospectus published previously to opening the subscription list, it is proposed to found two schools, one for a classical, and the other for a mercantile education, and also to the following professorships; natural philosophy, chemistry, logic and belles lettres, moral philosophy, mathematics, botany and agriculture, and to increase the number if the funds will permit.

Majesty's courts of justice, and shall and may appoint a common seal and seals for the use of the said Corporation, and that the said Corporation shall have full power and authority to receive subscriptions and donations* to enable them to establish and maintain the said Academical Institution.

And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the Proprietors for the time being, or any twenty-one or more of them, to make bye-laws, rules, regulations and statutes, for the government of the said Academical Institution, and for the education and government of all such persons to be educated therein, and for the election and elections of a President, Vice-President, Managers, Visitors, Treasurer, Secretary, and Auditors of the aforesaid Academical Institution, as to the said Proprietors or the major part of them convened at any general meeting shall seem meet, provided the same be not contrary to the laws of that part of the United Kingdom called Ireland, or to the provisions of this Act; nevertheless, the most noble Marquis of Downshire, the honourable John O'Neill, and the reverend Edward May, the first Vice Presidents; Robert Calwell, the first Treasurer; Joseph Stevenson, the first Secretary; Edward May, William Tennent, Edward Jones Agnew, Hugh Kennedy, James Douglas, John McCannan, Robert Getty, James McCleery, Robert Broadshaw, John Gregg, William Magee, John Cranston, Samuel Gibson, Robert Tennent, John Stoupe, William Summe, James M'Adam, Andrew M'Clellan, James Balin and William Clarke, the first Managers; Henry Augustus Seymour Harvey, Andrew O'Beirne, William Demman, doctor of medicine, Samuel Stephenson, doctor of medicine, the reverend William Holmes, John Templeton, the reverend Henry Henry, and the reverend Edward Geaves, the first Visitors; John M'Cracken, Robert Simms, and Robert Knox, the first Auditors; and that the said first President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, Managers, Visitors, and Auditors, and all subsequent Presidents, Vice Presidents, Treasurers, Secretaries, Managers, Visitors, and Auditors, and all subsequent Presidents, Vice Presidents, Treasurers, Secretaries, Managers, Visitors, and Auditors, shall continue in their respective offices for such time as shall be fixed at the first meeting of the Proprietors as hereinafter mentioned,† and in case of death or removal, to be supplied as hereinafter prescribed.

And be it further enacted, That the said Proprietors shall and may assemble within three months after the passing of this Act, at or in the Exchange within the town of Belfast, at such time as shall be by the President, and any five or more of the said Proprietors, be appointed, by writing under their hands, notice of such time of assembling having been previously advertised in the newspapers, or in one of the newspapers published in the said town of Belfast, seven days before the appointed day for the said Proprietors so assembling, and shall make such rules and regulations for their assembling in future as to them shall seem expedient, and that the Acts of the Proprietors so assembling at their said first meeting, or the major part of them, and of the Proprietors to be duly assembled at any future meeting, or the major part of them, shall be binding on and deemed the acts of the said Corporation, provided that at any such meeting twenty-one‡ or more of the said Proprietors be present.

And be it further enacted, That the election and elections of the future President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, Managers, Visitors and Auditors, shall be made according to the manner and form which shall be appointed by the said Proprietors, under the power herein before given to the said Proprietors to make rules and regulations respecting such elections: and that the President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, Managers, Visitors and Auditors, shall not continue in office for a longer time than the said Proprietors shall, by any bye-law made for that purpose determine; and that the number of Vice Presidents, Managers, Visitors and Auditors so to be elected, shall not exceed the following numbers, *viz.* four Vice Presidents, twenty Managers, eight Visitors, and three Auditors.

And be it further enacted, That if any President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Manager, Visitor or Auditor, during the time of his being in office, shall be desirous of being discharged of or from the same, he may send his resignation thereof in writing, addressed to the said Corporation by its corporate name, to be delivered at the place at which the Managers shall most usually meet upon the affairs of the said Corporation; and thereupon his office shall become vacant.

And be it further enacted, That if, in consequence of absence, impropriety of conduct, or any other circumstance, any general meeting of Proprietors to be held conformable to the regulations herein before contained, shall come to a resolution that any President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Manager, Visitor or Auditor, should cease to hold or be removed from office, the place he may then hold therein shall thereupon become vacant.

And be it further enacted, That all vacancies, from whatever cause occasioned, shall be filled up according to the manner and form to be appointed by the Proprietors, under the power herein before given to make Rules and Regulations respecting elections of officers.

And

* The Institution has already received several valuable donations of natural curiosities for the museum, and of books for the library; and a place has been prepared for lodging such as are presented, until the buildings intended for the library and museum shall have been erected.

† The above mentioned officers were, at a general meeting held under this Act, on the 26 day of July 1810, convened in their several offices and an adjourned meeting, held on the 10th day of November 1810, when a new election took place agreeably to the bye-laws agreed upon under the same Act, by a general meeting held on the 4th of September 1810, and ratified by the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council.

‡ The number originally fixed upon was forty, but has been reduced to that here raised, as it was frequently found difficult to assemble so large a number.

Sec. 11.
Proprietors may make Bye-Laws.

Sec. 111.
Meetings of the Proprietors.

Sec. 1V.
Election of the President and other Officers.

Sec. V.
President and other Officers may resign.

Sec. VI.
President and other Officers may be displaced.

Sec. VII.
For filling up Vacancies.

Sec. VIII.
Powers of President,
&c.

And be it further enacted, That the President, Vice Presidents, Managers, Visitors and Auditors, shall have and may exercise such power, authority and jurisdiction, as shall be given to them by such bye-laws, rules, regulations and statutes, as shall be hereafter made by the said Proprietors, according to the power herein before given to the said Proprietors, of making bye-laws, rules, regulations and statutes, for the government of the said Academical Institution; and the said President, Vice Presidents, Managers, Visitors and Auditors, shall not have nor exercise any other power, authority and jurisdiction, than such as shall be so given to them; and that the duties of the Treasurer, Secretary and Auditors, shall be such as the said Proprietors, by any bye-law by them made, shall prescribe; and that the said Proprietors shall have full power to prescribe the manner and form according to which bye-laws, rules, regulations and statutes are to be enacted, altered or repealed.

Sec. IX.
Qualification of
President, &c.

And be it further enacted, That the President, Vice Presidents, Managers, the aforesaid eight Visitors, the Treasurer, Secretary and Auditors, shall be elected from and be elected by the aforesaid corporate body; but that no member of the said corporate body, unless a member who shall have subscribed and paid the sum of fifty guineas or upwards, shall be eligible to the office of President and Vice President; and no member of the said corporate body shall be eligible to the office of Manager, unless such member shall have subscribed and paid the sum of twenty guineas or upwards; and that every member of the said corporate body shall have free admission to the Library and Museum of the said Academical Institution, subject to such regulations as the Managers may ordain.

Sec. X.
Visitors.

And be it further enacted, That in addition to the aforesaid eight elective Visitors, the Primate of all Ireland for the time being, the Marquis of Donegall, and the Marquesses of Donegall in succession, the Bishop of Down and his successors, and the Bishop of Down and Connor and his successors, the Provost of the College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, near Dublin, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Synod of Ulster, the Representatives in Parliament of the town of Belfast, the Representatives in Parliament for the counties of Down and Antrim, and the Sovereign of the said town of Belfast, all for the time being, shall be Visitors of the said Academical Institution, with the same powers, authority and jurisdiction, that shall or may hereafter be given to the eight Visitors so to be elected as aforesaid.

Sec. XI.
Subscribers of a
certain sum to
have one Boy
educated.

And be it further enacted, That for the encouragement of genius in the lower ranks of the people, every member of the said corporate body who shall have subscribed and paid into the hands of the Treasurer the sum of one hundred guineas or upwards, shall have the privilege of appointing one boy to be educated as a day-scholar, or extra student in the said Academical Institution, free of all expence.

Sec. XII.
Subscribers may
transfer their rights
during life.

And be it further enacted, That every member of the said corporate body shall have the power during his life, of transferring all the rights and privileges which he may hold and enjoy as a member of the said body corporate, to any person by a notification in writing under his hand to the Managers of the said Academical Institution, to be laid before the said Managers at any meeting of them duly assembled, containing the name, place of residence and situation in life of the person to whom such transfer is intended to be made, for their approbation; and should the Managers disapprove of the person so notified, then the member may proceed to nominate in the manner aforesaid, until some person so notified shall be approved of by the Managers; and on the person so notified being approved of by the Managers, they shall order the name of the person so notified and approved of to be entered together with a memorandum of such transfer by the Secretary, in a book to be kept for that purpose, to be called "The Book of Transfers;" and on such entry being so made, the person so nominated shall be a member of the said corporate body, and shall use, exercise and enjoy all the rights and privileges of a member of the said corporate body, in the place of the person so making such transfer.

Sec. XIII.
Bye-Laws not to
be contrary to the
Act.

And be it further enacted, That if any bye-law, rule, regulation or statute to be made by the said Proprietors, under the power herebefore given to them of making the same, shall contain any thing contrary to the several matters and things by this Act enacted, then such bye-law, rule, regulation and statute, shall be null and void.

Sec. XIV.
Bye-Laws to be
approved by Lord
Lieutenant and
Privy Council of
Ireland.

And be it enacted, That no order, rule, regulation or bye-law which shall be hereafter made by the Proprietors, according to the provisions for making the same, herebefore mentioned, shall be good, valid or effectual, nor shall any rule, regulation or bye-law be amended, altered or repealed, unless such order, rule, regulation or bye-law, or any amendment, alteration or repeal of such order, rule, regulation or bye-law, shall have been submitted to and allowed and approved of by the Lord Lieutenant or Chief Governor or Governors and Privy Council of Ireland for the time being, who are hereby empowered and required, on request from time to time made by or on behalf of any eight of the Managers for the time being, to peruse and examine all such orders, rules, regulations or bye-laws, as shall from time to time be made, amended, altered or repealed by the Proprietors, in pursuance of this Act, and laid before them the said Lord Lieutenant, or Chief Governor or Governors, and Privy Council of Ireland, for the time being, and to allow and approve of, or to disallow or disapprove of the same or any part thereof, or to allow and approve of, or to disallow and disapprove of the whole or any part thereof, as to them shall from time to time seem proper and expedient; and for doing thereof, no fee or reward shall be paid or taken: provided always, That if within thirty days after such said request in writing, together with the draft of such order or orders, rule or rules, regulation or regulations, bye-law or bye-laws, or any amendment, alteration or repeal of the same, shall have been lodged with the Clerk of the Privy Council of Ireland, and with the Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant or Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland for the time being, the same shall not be returned

returned to the Secretary of the said Academical Institution with the disapprobation of such order, rule, regulation or bye-law, or any amendment, alteration or repeal of any such order, regulation, rule or bye-law, that then the same so made by the Proprietors, according to the provisions hereinafter set forth, shall be good and valid to all intents and purposes, provided it contains nothing contrary to the laws and statutes of this realm; any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

And be it further enacted, That the said corporation shall be able and capable in law to purchase, take and enjoy messuages, lands or tenements, not exceeding the value of two thousand five hundred pounds per annum, and by indenture, under their common seal, to demise or lease the messuages, lands or tenements, vested or to be vested in them in pursuance of this Act, or any part or parcel thereof, for any number of years, not exceeding the term of thirty-one years, so as upon every such demise or lease there be reserved and made payable half-yearly to the said Proprietors and their successors during the said term, as much rent as at the time of making such lease or demise can be really had for the same from a solvent tenant, and so as no fine, income or other reservation, be taken for the same, than such rents reserved to the said trustees and their successors, and so as every such lease or demise be made in possession and not in reversion.

Sec. XV.
Proprietors may purchase Lands.

And be it further enacted, That in all actions to be sued or commenced against the said corporation, upon any deed, contract or engagement, under the common seal of the said corporation, it shall and may be lawful for the said corporation in such action to plead generally, that they owe nothing to the plaintiff or plaintiffs in such action, and that in all actions of covenant which shall be sued or commenced against the said corporation, it shall and may be lawful for the said corporation in such action to plead generally, that they have not broken the covenants in such deed, contract or engagement contained, or any of them, and if thereupon issue shall be joined, it shall and may be lawful for the jury, if they see cause upon the trial of such issue, to find a verdict for the plaintiff or plaintiffs in such action, and to give so much or such part only of the sum demanded, if it be an action of debt, or so much in damage if it be an action of covenant, as it shall appear to them upon the evidence given upon such trial, such plaintiff or plaintiffs ought in justice to have, or as or are entitled to, any law or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

Sec. XVI.
Corporation may plead generally.

And be it further enacted, That this Act shall be deemed and taken to be a public Act, and all judges, justices and others, are hereby required to take notice thereof as such, without the same being specially pleaded.

Sec. XVII.
Public Act.

BYE-LAWS FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION; 1816.

THE affairs of the Institution shall be conducted by a board, to be denominated the "Board of Managers," which board shall consist of a President, four Vice Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and twenty Managers.

Sec. I.

The President shall be elected for one year, or any longer time, by a general board of Proprietors.

Sec. II.

The Vice Presidents and the Managers shall be elected by the same board, to continue in office, after the first election, during four years; the first election to be as follows:—

The Vice President and five Managers having the greatest number of votes to continue in office four years; the Vice President and five Managers having the next greatest number of votes, to continue in office three years; the Vice President and five Managers, having the third greatest number, to continue in office two years; and the Vice President and five Managers having the least number of votes, to vacate their seats at the expiration of one year; afterwards, one fourth of the Vice Presidents and Managers shall vacate their seats annually, according to seniority of election, and be ineligible in the same for one year; but may be elected to other offices of the Institution. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be annually elected.

Sec. III.

There shall also be appointed eight Visitors and three Auditors; the Visitors subject to the same rules of election, vacating their offices, and re-election as the Managers. The Auditors to be annually chosen.

Sec. IV.

In any election, should two or more candidates have an equal number of votes, those whose names are entered first on the balloting list, shall be considered as having the greatest number of votes, and be elected accordingly.

A General Meeting of Proprietors shall be held annually on the first Tuesday in July, for the purpose of electing the Officers of the Institution, filling up the vacancies occasioned by the preceding second and third sections, receiving the report of the Managers, and transacting such other business as may be then laid before them.

Sec. V.

All business brought forward at any general meeting of Proprietors shall be decided by a majority present, and no bye-law, alteration or repeal of a bye-law, shall pass or take effect at such meeting, unless at least thirty days notice thereof in writing shall have been given to the Secretary, by fifteen Proprietors or upwards, which notice the Secretary shall publish in the Belfast newspapers; nor shall any bye-law, alteration or repeal, be proposed to the meeting by the Board of Managers, until it shall have been approved of by two-thirds of the Members present at a meeting of their Board, announced for that special purpose, and notice thereof given to the Secretary, and published by him as above.

Sec. VI.

The Secretary shall call a special board of Proprietors, on requisition being at any time made to him by fifteen or more Proprietors.

Sec. VII.

- Sec. VIII. Election to all offices in the Institution, and the adoption of all bye-laws and general regulations, shall be by ballot; the manner and form of which shall be settled by the board of Managers.
- Sec. IX. On election to an office in the Institution, the duties of it shall be made known to the person elected by the Secretary; and if he decline to act, the next on the list shall be appointed in his place, and so on until the office shall have been filled.
- Sec. X. It shall be the duty of the board of Managers to superintend the political economy of the Institution, under which are comprehended the finances and buildings, with all arrangements relating thereto; to engage suitable persons as Masters, Professors, Librarian and Assistants, and to remove them when they see cause; to make rules for admission to the lectures, library and museum, and for preserving order there, and generally throughout the Institution.
- Sec. XI. They shall have power to admit to the library, museum and lectures, strangers who may be distinguished by their rank or literary acquisitions.
- Sec. XII. They shall cause fair and accurate accounts to be kept of all receipts, payments and other business transacted by them, their officers and agents respectively, and annually make up the same to the first of July in every year, and lay them with the vouchers before the Auditors, in time to prepare them for being laid before the General Meeting.
- Sec. XIII. They shall also prepare a detailed Report of the actual state of the Institution, in order to be submitted to the Proprietors at their annual meeting in July.
- Sec. XIV. The Managers shall meet at their room in the Institution on the first Tuesday in every month; and no meeting shall be competent to transact business, unless five members be present.
- Sec. XV. The President, or two Vice Presidents, or any three of the Managers, may, by a requisition in writing to the Secretary, call a special meeting of Managers.
- Sec. XVI. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Managers, and in case of his absence, a Vice President, according to seniority; and should neither be present, one of the Managers shall be called to the chair.
- Sec. XVII. In every thing relating to the Institution, and not especially provided for by the bye-laws, the board of Managers shall have a discretionary power to act as they shall judge most for its interests, still subject, nevertheless, to the control and direction of the general meeting of the Proprietors.
- Sec. XVIII. The board of Managers shall at their discretion have all monies belonging to the Institution laid out in the purchase of lands and tenements, or placed at interest on security approved of by them.
- They shall also have authority to grant leases, agreeably to the Act of Incorporation, of any lands or tenements belonging to the Institution.
- Sec. XIX. The Treasurer shall cause all receipts and payments on account of the Institution, to be entered in a book kept under his direction, which book shall be laid on the Managers table, at their monthly meetings; he shall order payment of such drafts and bills as the Managers shall direct, and have his accounts made up to the first of July in every year, and laid before the Managers, in order that they may be prepared for the inspection of the Auditors.
- Sec. XX. The Secretary shall attend all the meetings of the Proprietors and Managers, and by himself or Assistant, take minutes of the proceedings; he shall also take care that due notice of the different meetings be given to the Proprietors and Managers.
- Sec. XXI. The Auditors shall examine the accounts of the Institution, made up to the first of July in every year, and report thereon to the next annual meeting; to which they shall also deliver a general statement of the accounts, signed by at least two of them.
- Sec. XXII. The Visitors shall have authority to inspect at all times every department of the Institution; they shall assist and vote with the Managers in the appointment of Masters and Professors, point out to them for purchase such apparatus, books, &c. as may be wanted for the literary and scientific part of the Institution, and furnish them with lists and estimates of their probable expense; they shall report to the Managers on the best means of promoting the objects of the Institution, by detailing the plans necessary to be pursued, and the abuses which ought to be corrected; appoint and attend examinations for discovering the proficiency of the pupils, and vigilantly observe the whole internal discipline, especially as to its influence on the manners and morals of the students.
- Sec. XXIII. The Visitors shall meet at least once every month, and no meeting shall be competent to transact business unless three or more members be present. They shall report annually on those matters relating to the Institution which are comprehended in their department, either to the board of Managers, or to a general court of Proprietors, as they think best.
- Sec. XXIV. Any three Visitors may convene a special meeting of Proprietors on giving eight days notice thereof in writing to the Managers; they may elect a Secretary from among themselves, and make such regulations respecting the mode of transacting their business as shall seem best.
- Sec. XXV. The board of Managers and board of Visitors when summoned for that especial purpose, shall form a joint board, with authority to make rules for the establishment and regulation of the college and schools: these rules shall prescribe the number of Professorships convenient or necessary at particular periods; the departments of sciences which shall be taught, or in which lectures shall be delivered; the number of schools, and the mode of conducting them; the authority which shall be exercised by the Professors and Masters, in order to insure the attention, and expedite the progress of the pupils; the manner in which students shall receive testimonials of proficiency in their several studies, so as to secure the public confidence; and finally, the regulations best adapted for a seminary whose object it is to infuse

the best moral habits, together with a love for literary acquirements. These rules shall be of force in the Institution after having received the concurrence of a general board of Proprietors.

Any three members of the boards of Managers and Visitors, may, by requisition in writing to the Secretary, call a joint board of Visitors and Managers for the above purpose.

On the death of a Proprietor his heir shall be entitled to all the privileges enjoyed by the deceased.

All vacancies occasioned by death, resignation or otherwise, and not already provided for, shall be filled up by a general court of Proprietors, which shall be convened by order of the board of Managers, as soon as may be after the occurrence of the vacancy or vacancies.

Sec. XXVI.

Sec. XXVII.

Sec. XXVIII.

Appendix, No. 2.

A LIST of OFFICERS, &c. of the BELFAST ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION,
October 1815.

PRESIDENT:—Marquess of Donegall, appointed for life.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

C. Greg, esq. vacates in July 1826.

Edward Jones Agnew, esq. vacates in July 1827.

Sir Arthur Clibchester, bart. vacates in July 1828.

Charles Brownlow, esq. vacates in July 1829.

VISITORS appointed by Act of Parliament:

The Primate of all Ireland, for the time being.

Marquess of Donegall, and the Marquesses of Donegall in succession.

Bishop of Down, and his successors.

Bishop of Down and Connor, and his successors.

Provost of Trinity College, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Synod of Ulster, the Representatives in Parliament for the town of Belfast, the Representatives in Parliament for the counties of Down and Antrim, and the Sovereigns of the said town of Belfast; all for the time being.

MANAGERS:

Robert Tennent, William Newman, John Murphy, John McAdam, Francis McCracken,	} Vacate in July 1826.	William Boyd, Robert Gatty, Robert McDowell, William Simms, John Vance,	} Vacate in July 1828.
Robert Gamble, William Tennent, Adam McClean, John McCracken, Thomas Ekenhead,		John Barnett, Thomas How, Samuel McClean, William Sinclair, John Daville,	

VISITORS appointed by the Proprietors:

H. A. S. Harvey, S. S. Thomson, M. D., Thomas Grimshaw, Rev. Henry Henry,	} Vacate in July 1826. } Vacate in July 1827.	Rev. W. D. H. McEwen, James McDowell, M. D.,	} Vacate in July 1829.
C. B. Grimshaw, Samuel Archer,		Treasurer, Robert Callwell, Secretary, Joseph Stevenson,	

PROFESSORS:

John Stevelly, A. B.—Natural Philosophy.	Rev. Wm. Bruce, A. B.—Latin, Greek.
James Thomson, A. M.—Mathematics.	Rev. Thomas Dix Hincks.—Hebrew.
John Young, LL. D.—Moral Philosophy.	James L. Drummond, M. D.—Anatomy
Rev. Wm. Cairns, A. M.—Logic and Belles Lettres.	and Physiology.

These Professors are appointed by the Institution, and exclusive of them, there are:—

The Rev. Dr. Hanna.—Divinity and Church History; appointed by the General Synod of Ulster.

The Rev. Dr. Edgar.—Divinity and Church History; appointed by the Presbyterian Synod of Ireland, distinguished by the name "Seceders."

And the Rev. W. D. H. McEwen, has an Elocution Class.

The Professors appointed by the Institution, and the two Professors of Divinity, form the Faculty, of which the Rev. Thomas Dix Hincks is President.